DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Donovan, Jaiswal shine as RR beat PBKS

Page 14

Bengal Phase 2: Over 3.2 cr to cast ballots today

Final round of voting under tight security

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The stage is set for the final phase of voting for the West Bengal assembly elections, although a large number of people will have to stay away from the festival of democracy, as the appellate tribunals have re-enfranchised less than 1,500 of the deleted voters in the constituencies going to the polls on Wednesday.

Nineteen tribunals were set up in accordance with an order of the Supreme Court to decide on the appeals filed by lakhs of deleted voters, and they restored the suffrage of only 1,607 across the state, including 139 in the 152 constituencies, which went to the polls in the first phase on Thursday, and 1,468 in the 142 constituencies where voting would take place in the final phase on Wednesday.

Over 3.21 crore voters – 1.64 crore men, 1.57 crore women, and 792 transgenders – will be eligible to vote in 41,001 polling stations to decide the fate of 1,448 candidates, the EC said.

The EC has deployed a total of 2,321 companies of central paramilitary forces, in addition to local police personnel, to ensure free and fair polls in the 142 constituencies.

Around 63.66 lakh voters, nearly 8.3% of the electorate, had been deleted from the rolls across West Bengal since the beginning of the roll revision exercise in November 2025, till February 28. However, over 60.06 lakh more voters had been placed in the "under adjudication" category.

The Election Commission data showed that over 27.16 lakh voters of the 60.06 lakh placed in the "under adjudication" category had been stripped of voting rights, while more than 32.68 lakh of them had been included in the electoral rolls.

Officials leave for polling stations in West Bengal on Tuesday. PTI

TMC banks on Didi, doles & demography

Mamata's biggest strength — and her Achilles' heel — is the TMC's grassroots penetration, marshalled by sectoral chiefs. Seema (name changed) says, "I get Rs 1,700 in my account every month. Didi will come back, you just see." The impact of doles is tapering off, though their sedimentary effect remains. Page 6

Quickly

UAE pulls out of OPEC oil cartels

The UAE will withdraw from the OPEC and OPEC+ oil cartels to focus on "national interests", it said on Tuesday, causing fresh shockwaves as energy prices soar over the West Asia war. The UAE will pull out on Friday, a WAM news agency statement said. Details on Page 12

India to receive 4th unit of S-400 in May

India is expected to receive the fourth unit of the S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile system from Russia in the first part of next month. This will further enhance the IAF's air defence mechanism, sources in the security establishment said. Details on Page 7

BJP sweeps Gujarat local body polls

The BJP on Tuesday emerged victorious in all 15 municipal corporations in Gujarat, where elections were held on April 26, officials said. In a post on X, PM Narendra Modi applauded the party workers for the sweeping mandate. Details on Page 6

Industrial output growth slips to 4.1%

India's industrial production growth slowed to a five-month low of 4.1% in March, dragged down by the subdued performance of the manufacturing sector amid the West Asia conflict. The NSO revised its February 2026 industrial output growth data to 5.1%. Details on Page 12

3 doctors held for sex determination

The police have arrested three doctors on the charge of conducting sex determination tests illegally on 31 pregnant women, in Mandya district. The suspects have been handed over to judicial custody. A gynaecologist is on the run, said the police. Details on Page 3

CENTRE TO SC: Action on against menace

Digital arrests: WhatsApp bans 9,400 accounts

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that a multi-pronged action involving telecom regulators, service providers, the RBI, tech giants and the CBI has been taken to tackle the rising menace of digital arrest scams, while WhatsApp has banned 9,400 accounts involved in such offences.

Attorney General R Venkataramani informed the court that the action was detailed by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) which has filed a comprehensive status report in pursuance of the Supreme Court's directions of February 9 to curb rising cases of digital arrests in the country.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant had issued directions, including asking the Reserve Bank of India, Department of Telecommunications and others to come up with a framework for providing compensation for digital arrests.

Digital arrest is a cybercrime in which fraudsters pose as law enforcement officers, court officials or personnel from government agencies to intimidate victims through audio and video calls. They hold the victims hostage and put pressure on them to pay money.

The court had earlier termed the siphoning of over Rs 54,000 crore by digital frauds as "absolute robbery or dacoity".

Detailing steps taken, it was submitted, "Telecom operators, digital platforms and financial regulators have begun implementing a series of measures to tackle digital arrest scams, including faster SIM blocking, biometric verification systems and platform-level safeguards by WhatsApp."

It was further highlighted that in direct response to concerns raised by I4C, MEITY and DoT, WhatsApp in January 2026 launched a structured, multi-week dedicated investigation specifically focused on digital arrest scams targeting Indian users.

"This investigation followed a rigorous methodology: identify seed signals, map networks, enforce against the entire network, build scaled automated defences," the report said.

It stated, out of around 3,800 scam-related accounts flagged under Section 79 IT Act takedown requests, only 17 were related to digital arrest scams, but its investigation mapped entire networks and led to 9,400 account bans.

WhatsApp also informed that most scams targeting Indian users originated from Southeast Asia, particularly Cambodia, and were run via clusters of accounts with patterns like common names, reused media and coordinated behaviour, the report said.

CRACKING DOWN
SIM blocking, biometric verification systems and platform-level safeguards by WhatsApp
WhatsApp launches dedicated investigations on digital arrest scams
WhatsApp informs that most such scam operations targeting Indian users originated from Southeast Asia, particularly Cambodia
This investigation involves identifying seed signals, mapping networks, building scaled automated defences

Airlines warn of shutdown, seek ATF price relief

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Warning that the country's aviation industry is under "extreme stress and on the verge of stopping its operations", the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) has written to the government seeking revision of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) pricing and temporary suspension of excise duty on jet fuel for domestic operations.

The FIA, which represents Air India, IndiGo, and SpiceJet, said the "dire condition" of the aviation industry has also been exacerbated by the West Asia crisis, resulting in additional expenses.

Seeking urgent intervention on the current ATF ad-hoc pricing, it stated that this is "creating severe imbalance" in domestic and international operations, rendering airline networks unviable and unsustainable.

"The airline industry is under extreme stress and is on the verge of closing down or of stopping its operations. The dire condition of the aviation sector has been exacerbated by the West Asia War and the exorbitant increase in the price of ATF," the letter, sent on Sunday, said.

It said any ad-hoc pricing (domestic vs international) and/or irrational increase in the price of ATF will result in "insurmountable losses" for airlines and will lead to grounding of aircraft, resulting in cancellation of flights.

▸ Airlines, Page 5

Iran in a 'state of collapse', claims Trump

WASHINGTON, AP: President Donald Trump on Tuesday claimed that Iran "has just" informed the US that it is in a "state of collapse".

"They want us to open the Hormuz Strait as soon as possible, as they try to figure out their leadership situation," Trump posted on social media.

He added that he believes they will be able to sort out reported divisions within the Islamic Republic government about negotiations with the US.

The US did not immediately respond to questions about who on the Iranian side delivered the message, who in the Republican administration received it and whether the communications were conducted directly with the US or through an intermediary.

▸ Trump, Page 5

Donald Trump

Police detain members of Yuva Morcha near the Bangalore International Centre on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

BJP workers protest Umar Khalid event, over 30 detained

BENGALURU, DHNS: An event linked to jailed activist Umar Khalid unfolded amid tension in Domlur on Monday, with Bengaluru police throwing a thick security cordon around the venue and tightly restricting movement.

Police rounded up 33 members of the BJP Yuva Morcha after they raised slogans and tried to barge into the Bangalore International Centre (BIC) to disrupt the event. Some other protesters fled the scene.

The programme featured readings from the book 'Umar Khalid and His World' by three of its editors, followed by a panel discussion with historian Janaki Nair, writer-historian Ramachandra Guha and actor Prakash Raj.

▸ Umar Khalid, Page 5

If Rahul asks, Siddu will resign: Rajanna

BENGALURU, DHNS: Senior Congress lawmaker K N Rajanna said on Tuesday that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will "sacrifice power" if top party leader Rahul Gandhi asks him to step down.

This signals a shift in the stance of the Siddaramaiah camp, which has maintained that there would not, and should not, be any change in leadership.

"The chief minister has an open mind. He has said he would abide by the directions of the high command and Rahul Gandhi, and that everyone should cooperate," Rajanna, a Siddaramaiah loyalist, said.

Details on Page 5

SEVERE HEAT

City lets down its workers as heat rises

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

As Bengaluru bakes in the peak summer amid fears of a heatwave, how are the vulnerable sections coping? First-hand accounts from those in the solid waste management, primary health delivery and gig economy sector show the city, which extracts hard labour at a cheap price, fails them at every level, from failing to provide drinking water and toilets to neglecting their health.

The testimonials were shared as part of a workshop on 'Extreme Heat and its Impact on Bengaluru' organised by Karnataka Media Academy and ASAR against the backdrop of the city registering a maximum temperature of 38.2 degrees C on Monday. The felt temperature is exacerbated by built-up areas and other conditions of climate change.

(From left) Lingaraju, a gig worker, dry waste centre operator Mansoor Ghouse and Asha worker Farhana share their ordeal at a workshop in Bengaluru.

Farhana, an Asha worker assigned to the primary health centre in West Bengaluru's Kamalanagar, said she avoids drinking water due to lack of access to toilets during work.

"I start my day around 9.30 am after sending children to school, and visit about 50 houses. Besides visiting the target families (pregnant women, tuberculosis patients and others), I also conduct larvae survey on at least two streets before reaching the PHC at 2.30 pm. Till then, I am scared of drinking water," she said.

▸ Summer peaks, Page 5

Labourer dies of severe heat

Husenappa Madivala (50), a daily wage labourer working under MGNREGA, died in Raichur district on Monday afternoon, reportedly due to extreme heat. Details on Page 5

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Karnataka plans subsidised IVF through tie-up with private hospitals

5 hospitals empanelled to offer the service; more to be added

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to support couples seeking In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF), the state health department plans to offer the procedure at subsidised rates by collaborating with private hospitals.

The government currently does not provide IVF services on its own due to lack of the required infrastructure.

Who can avail the subsidised IVF scheme?

- Must be a married couple residing in Karnataka with a Primary Household (PHH) card.
- Couple should not have a living biological child.
- Failure to conceive after 12 months of unprotected intercourse.
- 6 months for women above 35 years
- Medical proof required; diagnosis as per ICMR guidelines.
- Evidence of failed conventional treatments such as ovulation induction (OI) and intrauterine insemination (IUI).

Both partners must be between 21 and 55 years (as per ART Act)

So far, five private hospitals have been empanelled to offer the service, and more are in the process of empanelment, health department officials said.

According to the government order, couples seeking to avail the scheme must be married residents of Karnataka and hold a Primary Household (PHH) card. They should not have a living biological child and must be clinically diagnosed as infertile — defined as failure to conceive after 12 months of unprotected intercourse, or six months in the case of women above 35 years of age.

Infertility must be supported by diagnostic documentation as per Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) guidelines, including evidence of failure of conventional treatments such as ovulation induction (OI) and intrauterine insemination (IUI).

As per the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Regulation Act, eligible couples must be above 21 years and below 55 years of age.

However, the scheme will not cover male infertility procedures such as testicular sperm aspiration or extraction (TESA/TESE), use of donor gametes, surrogacy, or IUI procedures.

The government has capped the cost at Rs 1.2 lakh for one IVF cycle without embryo freezing, Rs 1.3 lakh with embryo freezing, and Rs 35,000 for one cycle of embryo transfer.

The scheme will initially be implemented for one year through government tertiary care centres, including district hospitals, medical colleges, autonomous institutes, and empanelled private facilities registered under the ART Act, under the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST).

What is not covered?

- Male infertility procedures (TESA/TESE)
- Use of donor gametes
- Surrogacy
- IUI procedures

Officials said that if adequate infrastructure is developed, the service may later be restricted to government hospitals.

"The couple will need a recommendation from a government hospital certifying infertility to avail the procedure at empanelled private hospitals.

"Prices have been fixed after assessing prevailing market rates," said Dr Rajini Nageshrao, Deputy Director, Obstetrics and Immunisation, Health and Family Welfare.

Unit at Vani Vilas

Separately, the Department of Medical Education and Skills Development plans to set up an IVF centre at Vani Vilas Hospital, the maternity wing of Victoria Hospital, by the end of the year.

"An entire floor in the new Victoria building has been earmarked, and we are aiming to start services by the year-end," said Dr C Savitha, Medical Superintendent of Vani Vilas.

Light rain in parts of Bengaluru; more expected from today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Parts of the city received light pre-monsoon showers on Tuesday evening, offering brief relief from the heat.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening across all three weather stations from April 28 to May 1.

According to the IMD, 1.6 mm of rainfall was recorded at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) as of 8.30 pm.

The Bengaluru city and HAL airport weather stations also reported thunderstorms accompanied by rainfall.

Day temperatures dipped slightly following the showers. Bengaluru City recorded a maximum of 35.4°C, which is 1.3°C above normal, while HAL airport recorded 35.8°C, 1.9°C above normal.

FIR against manager of MG Rd restaurant

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru police have registered an FIR against the manager of a restaurant on MG Road for allegedly sexually harassing a 22-year-old woman.

According to police, the incident occurred around 3 pm on Monday.

The woman, who works at a private company, had visited the restaurant with friends for lunch. As they were leaving, the manager, identified as Ravi, picked an argument with her, used obscene language, threatened her with rape and assaulted her, causing an injury to her hand, as per the FIR. The woman later approached the police and filed a complaint.

Police also said the restaurant management allegedly deleted CCTV footage related to the incident.

Half of Srigandakaval Lake in RR Nagar being concretised

Citizens raise concerns over flood mitigation

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

More than half of Srigandakaval Lake in RR Nagar is being converted into paved and built-up space, with the civic body now building a wide jogging track next to the already-existing walking path as part of its redevelopment.

The revamp, which includes an amphitheatre, has raised concerns especially among environmentally conscious residents over a potential loss in water-holding capacity and the groundwater recharge.

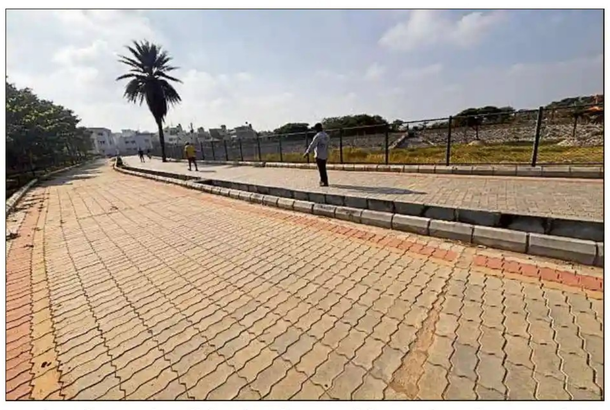
While some residents are happy with the ongoing redevelopment as it's walker-friendly, others felt that both the authorities and walkers are making a mistake treating the lake as a park. They want the civic body to start looking at lakes as natural buffers for groundwater recharge and urban flood mitigation.

"There was no need for building a jogging track around the lake," Shobha Bhat, a resident of the area said, adding the walking track itself was as wide as a road.

She was distraught seeing the lake's size being reduced to accommodate a variety of leisure activities including the amphitheater, children's play area, open gym, and gazebo, among others.

When this *DH* correspondent visited the lake, the work on constructing a 20-foot-wide jogging track was more or less complete. Just a few steps away, foundation work was underway for the construction of a building that some say is meant for a toilet. A few felt the construction was taking too much of the lake's space.

"The authorities can build a jogging track, a walking track and even a toilet anywhere they want. But can they create a lake?" a resident asked, with a request to retain the waterbody in its natural habitat ensuring the water-holding capacity is not reduced.



Jogging and walking tracks, as wide as a two-lane road, cut into the lake's area. DH PHOTO/NAVEEN MENEZES

Initially, the lake was a picture of neglect, with garbage and weeds taking a major chunk of the waterbody.

Following pressure from the local residents, the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) proposed rejuvenation of the waterbody in 2016. The civic body did take up some core works such as desilting of the six-acre waterbody, strengthening of the bund, improvements to inlets, etc.

What has irked the residents is a slew of works that have turned the waterbody into a concrete bowl.

A happy few

A few walkers *DH* spoke to were happy with the work, saying they are finally able to come for a morning walk. "Walking on the road is not easy, especially because of the large number of stray dogs," Dhruv Pradeep, a resident of the area, said.

Shobha, who was among the people who fought for the rejuvenation of the lake, stressed that there is a fundamental misunderstanding about the role of lakes. "A lake is not a park. It is the responsibility of each one to protect the water source, its holding capacity and biodiversity," she said.

SHOBHA BHAT
Local resident

"A lake is not a park. It is the responsibility of each one to protect the water source, its holding capacity and biodiversity. All the places are being encroached upon for human entertainment, and least importance is given to letting rainwater flow in. This will definitely lead to future water scarcity.

She further pointed out that increasing built-up areas within the lake space could disrupt natural inflows.

"All the places are being encroached upon for human entertainment, and least importance is given to letting rainwater flow in. This will definitely lead to future water scarcity," she added.

When contacted, Bengaluru West City Corporation Commissioner KV Rajendra promised to look at the construction activity in the lake.

Mystery deepens in Jharkhand woman's death

BENGALURU, DHNS: A large quantity of torn papers scattered across the room and reports of frequent midnight singing have added a mysterious dimension to the death of 34-year-old Puja Dutta, a native of Jharkhand.

Pooja Dutta

Her highly decomposed body was found in her rented house in Adugodi on Monday.

She was found unclothed and the body has been shifted for post-mortem to ascertain the exact cause of death. Police said they have managed to contact her father Sanatan Dutta, an advocate, who is arriving in the city on Wednesday from his hometown.

She had not shared details of her friends or family with the house owner during the rental agreement since 2024 at AK Colony in Adugodi.

Preliminary inquiry revealed that Puja had quit her job in March 2025 at a reputed company, and police are verifying whether she had joined any other company thereafter. She had not been in contact with her parents for one-and-a-half years, police said.

Neighbours said she was an introvert and rarely stepped out. They recalled that she would often sing late at night, leading to complaints.

"No suicide note was found. The exact cause of death will be revealed once the post-mortem examination is completed," a police officer from the Adugodi police station said.

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Techie loses Rs 11.5 lakh to Facebook travel scam

BENGALURU, DHNS: A software engineer working in northeast Bengaluru was cheated of Rs 11.5 lakh when she was trying to book a trip to Europe.

The 33-year-old victim from Thanisandra told police that she discovered the page of 'Jetha Iccha Setha Jai Travels and Events' when browsing through Facebook.

She contacted them at two phone numbers shared online to inquire about a trip to Europe. The scamsters then shared the trip details with her.

Once they realised she was interested, they contacted her from different numbers and made her transfer Rs 12.77 lakh in different transactions, claiming the amounts were charges for visa and other bookings and expenses.

Once the payments were completed and the victim inquired about the trip, the suspects allegedly claimed it was cancelled.

When asked for a refund, they transferred back only Rs 1.18 lakh and refused to refund the rest.

Northeast Cybercrime Police have registered a case and an investigation is underway, officials said.

Man held for unlicenced home bar

BENGALURU, DHNS: Electronics City police have arrested a 54-year-old man for allegedly running a home bar and selling liquor at inflated prices without a licence.

A senior police officer said the accused, identified as John Jacob, a resident of Mylasandra, was caught red-handed at his house. He had stocked liquor purchased from MRP outlets in Attibele and was illegally reselling it to customers from his residence.

Acting on information received around 6 pm on April 26, a police team conducted a raid and found liquor sachets and bottles allegedly meant for sale at higher prices. Multiple brands of liquor worth a few lakhs were seized and samples were collected for testing as part of the investigation.

During interrogation, Jacob told police that he targeted daily-wage labourers. He procured alcohol from authorised outlets and sold it at nearly 50% above MRP to a regular customer base.

South Corporation acts against vendors encroaching walkways, corridors of Jayanagar complex

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) has registered 39 cases and imposed fines totalling Rs 88,200 on vendors who encroached upon walkways, stairs, and corridors in the Jayanagar Shopping Complex.

The action was taken after the BSCC received multiple complaints from the public, stating that shop owners and vendors had encroached upon corridors, walkways, and public spaces within the complex, obstructing pedestrian movement.

Following the complaints, the corporation issued warnings to shop owners.

"Based on public complaints, the corporation had been continuously creating awareness over the last three days, urging shop owners within the commercial complex to voluntarily clear the unauthorised encroachments beyond their allotted areas," the statement said.

The Jayanagar Shopping Complex. DH FILE PHOTO

Action follows multiple public complaints that shop owners and vendors had encroached on corridors, walkways and other common areas, obstructing pedestrian movement within the complex.

On Tuesday, action was taken against those who continued to encroach upon public spaces despite multiple warnings.

BSCC Commissioner KN Ramesh said the corporation would cancel the trade licences of shop owners who encroach upon public spaces in future.

"A clear warning has been issued to all shop owners in the commercial complex, conveying the message that the encroachment of public spaces will not be tolerated under any circumstances. This special operation will continue until all encroachments are completely cleared," he said.

Six foreigners booked for alleged soliciting

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Bengaluru police booked six foreign nationals for allegedly soliciting prostitution near the Madiwala Check Post, Koramangala.

Three of the suspects were from Tanzania and the other three from Uganda. The women were aged between 24 and 30, police said.

The CCB's Women Protection Wing acted on information that foreign women were standing on the footpath close to the Madiwala Check Post near Koramangala and soliciting men passing by for prostitution.

Officers visited the spot and conducted a verification.

During the operation, it was found that six foreign women were engaging in illegal activities by soliciting men in a public place for prostitution, police said.

"Acting swiftly, the officers and staff conducted a raid and secured all six foreign women. Upon inquiry regarding their passports and visas, they failed to provide valid and satisfactory information. Subsequently, all six foreign women were produced before the Koramangala police station along with a report for further legal action," police said in a statement.

A case was registered. The women were sent to the foreigners detention centre for further proceedings.

"They generally enter the country on tourist, business and student visas and overstay and engage in such activities. The six suspects were staying on the outskirts of the city in rented houses and used to enter the city late in the night and solicit prostitution," a CCB officer told *DH*.

The officer further stated that they had to conduct an undercover operation with plainclothes officials to detain the suspects. "Otherwise, they create a commotion in public to divert attention and then escape," the officer added.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Inauguration: NU Hospital; Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, Dr CN Manjunath, Ramesh Aravind, Uday Garudachar; NU Hospital, Mission Road; 10 am.

BR Ambedkar Jayanti: Organised by Central Power Research Institute (CPRI); GB Harish and J Sridevi; CPRI, Sadashivanagar; 2 pm.

Book release: 'Anusandana', written by BC Nagendra Kumar; Puttanna, Chandrashekar V Nangali; Government Art College, Ambedkar Veedhi; 3 pm.

CULTURAL

Play: 'Kalavidha', directed by Bhavani Shankar; KA Prabhath Auditorium, Basaveshwara Nagar; 3.30 pm & 7.15 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Rain or thundershowers would occur towards afternoon or evening

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	36.0°C
Minimum	23.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	NIL
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	33%
Sunset (Apr 29)	6:34 pm
Sunrise (Apr 30)	6:00 am
Moonrise	3:55 pm
Moonset	3:32 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Cops crack down on IPL ticket touts

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Central division of the Bengaluru police has registered 17 cases and arrested 24 suspects allegedly selling tickets illegally at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium during the first five RCB games of the IPL season.

"Sixteen cases were registered at the Cubbon Park police station and one at the Halasuru Gate police station. Investigators have recovered 36 tickets from the 24 arrested suspects, who were attempting to sell them illegally," a senior police officer told *DH*.

Among those arrested was 49-year-old Chandra Shekar P, a captain at Shree Lakshmi Caterers at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, who told plainclothes policemen he had IPL tickets and quoted Rs 19,000 for a Rs 15,000 ticket before his arrest. He also claimed he had links and passwords to the tickets.

CCB's probe revealed that 181 tickets worth Rs 17.52 lakh were purchased from TicketGenie and illegally sold to the public at a higher price.

Cong leader accused of molestation

BENGALURU, DHNS: A local Congress functionary in Bengaluru is accused of assaulting and inappropriately touching a minor girl.

He was allegedly in a relationship with her married mother.

Anand P alias Anand Naidu, the general secretary of Bengaluru North District Congress Committee, and the woman Suvarna CK are also accused of assaulting the girl and her brother with a knife and stick. The girl also alleged that she was bitten by her mother.

The Annapoorneshwari Nagar police have registered a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

The case was filed following a complaint by the minor's father. "Anand P has touched my 16-year-old daughter inappropriately. I was also assaulted for questioning their relationship," the FIR quoted the complainant, 40, as saying.

Silicon City College (Autonomous), KR Puram, marked its annual festival 'Parampara' on April 24 with great enthusiasm. The occasion also witnessed the release of the college's annual magazine, 'Blossom', in the presence of distinguished guests, including entrepreneur and academician Prof Dr Vijay Chandru; Retired IAS officer BH Anil Kumar; Rajasthan MLA Deepti Kiran Maheshwari; Dr HM Chandrashekar, Chairman; HM Mukunda, Director; and Dr M Prakash, Governing Council Member, along with other dignitaries.

Education dept bans children dancing to obscene songs

Action against school heads, management if rules are flouted

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Department of School Education and Literacy has restricted children from dancing to obscene songs during the annual day and cultural programmes organised in schools.

The Director of Primary Education and Literacy has instructed schools across the state, including private ones, to take necessary measures and ensure that children do not dance to obscene songs.

Action will be initiated against the head of the school and also against the management if found flouting rules, a circular reads.

As mentioned in the circular, the schools must help the children choose the songs that are patriotic and inspirational with positive lyrics, and those that uphold the values of Kannada and the culture of the state.

It has also instructed the head teachers to take the initiative in the selection of songs.

Considering incidents where the choice/lyrics of the song were not age-appropriate for children performing the songs, the department has taken this decision.

"Officials have witnessed students performing to songs with adult content. It is not the mistake of children; it is the responsibility of the teachers to verify the song selected by the students before allowing them to dance," said an official of the department.

The circular has been issued, considering a petition by the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike Swabhimani Bana, Bengaluru, which has requested the department to ban children dancing to obscene songs.

There are songs on alcohol, smoking, etc. Such songs are a strict no and teachers should be doubly careful before finalising or permitting students to practice for the same, the official added.

There are instances where children are dressed up mimicking the person performing on screen.

On costumes

"Even while deciding costumes, teachers need to intervene and ensure that they are dressed up decently," the official said.

A few private schools have already implemented this and are not allowing film songs during annual day celebrations.

"We choose a theme for each annual day and songs will be chosen accordingly. For younger children, themes like flowers, music, animals, etc, are chosen, and for high school students, patriotic, historical, folk songs are chosen..." said the principal of a private school.

SSLC: 'All students who failed exam-1 must register for exam-2'

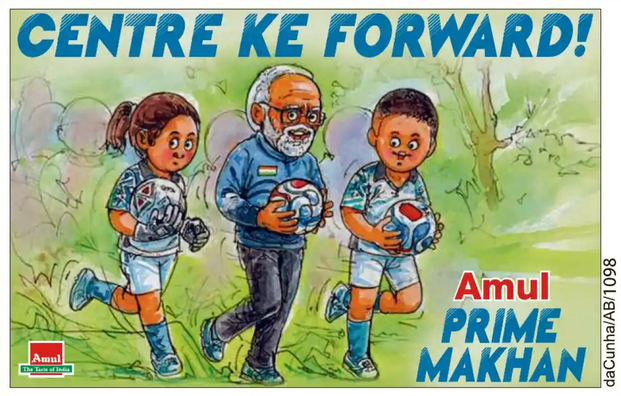
BENGALURU, DHNS: The Department of School Education and Literacy has made it mandatory for all students who have failed in SSLC examination-1 to register for examination-2.

According to a statement released by School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa, the deputy directors of the department in all districts have been instructed to ensure that all SSLC students who failed in the examination-1 are registered for examination-2.

Madhu stated that to encourage students to take up examination-2, the department had announced fee waiver for the second examination. "There will be no examination fee for failed students to appear for the second examination. This is to reduce the financial burden on parents and to encourage students to appear for second examination," the minister stated.

Meanwhile, those who wish to improve their score can also appear for the second examination. "No student should be deprived of education because of the lack of information and no student should discontinue education just because they failed in examination-1," Madhu stated.

In the statement, the minister said that in the SSLC examination-1, a total of 45,415 students had failed. Of these, 20,691 students failed in one subject, 10,509 - two subjects, 6,103 - three subjects, 3,799 - four subjects, 2,552 - five subjects and 1,716 in all subjects.



daCunha/AB/1098

Yogesh Goudar murder: Vinay Kulkarni appeals against conviction; HC orders notice to CBI

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday ordered notice to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the criminal appeals filed by Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni and co-accused Chandrashekar Indi, challenging their conviction in the murder of BJP Zilla Panchayat member Yogesh Goudar.

A division bench comprising Justices Mohammed Nawaz and Justice Venkatesh Naik T said that the matter cannot be heard on merit now and said that the appellant was at liberty to approach the vacation bench of the court in case of any urgency.

The petitioners Vinay Kulkarni and Chandrashekar Indi challenged the special court' judgment convicting and sentencing them to life imprisonment. When the appeals came up for hearing, senior advocate C V Nagesh, appearing for the appellant Vinay Kulkarni, pressed for listing of the matter on April 30 enabling him to argue for interim relief. However, the division bench pointed out that the matter cannot be heard on merits now and gave liberty to approach the vacation bench in case of urgency.

Meanwhile, the CBI counsel submitted that the special court's judgment runs into 680 pages, and they should be granted sufficient time to go through the appeal and file objections. The matters have been adjourned.

On April 15, the special court for cases involving elected representatives had convicted Vinay Kulkarni and 16 others for the murder. The special court had also awarded Rs 16 lakh compensation to the children of the deceased. Chennakeshava Tingarikar, the investigation officer at the initial stage of the probe, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

Goudar was murdered at his gym in Dharwad by hired assailants on June 15, 2016. Goudar's family alleged that he had received death threats before the murder. The local police initially had arrested six persons in the case. The CBI case was that Vinay Kulkarni was the main conspirator in the murder of Goudar. Vinay Kulkarni, who was district incharge minister at the relevant time, did not want Goudar to grow as a leader in Dharwad.

2 ex-bureaucrats in race for chief information commissioner's post

BENGALURU DHNS: The first meeting to select the chief commissioner for the Karnataka Information Commission was held on Tuesday.

The meeting was chaired by the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka, Energy Minister K J George and Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh were present.

Sources said the names of former IAS officers N Jayaram and G Satyavati were discussed in the meeting.

The chief minister was in favour of N Jayaram, who retired from the service last year. Jayaram is the son-in-law of prominent Mysuru-based politician, former MLC and Kannada film producer Sandesh Nagaraj.

The meeting, however, did not reach a consensus and it was decided to convene another meeting to finalise the name.

IN 'MOO'D TO FEED

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot inaugurate the Kamadhenu Loka (cattle shed) at Lok Bhavan, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. PHOTO: CM'S OFFICE

Need to recover encroached forests to save city: Khandre

BENGALURU, DHNS: Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre acknowledged the problem of unplanned development of Bengaluru, adding to extreme heat conditions and stressed the need to recover the 'forests under encroachment' and save the water bodies to ensure the city continues to be liveable.

He was speaking at a workshop on extreme heat organised by the Karnataka Media Academy.

"We have recovered 250 acres of land, and there are more forest lands that are under encroachments that need to be recovered. The 400-acre Peenya plantation is a forest, of which at least 280 acres can be recovered from the HMT. Similarly, 444 acres of forest in Jarakabande and 159 acres in Yelahanka's Gantiganahalli need to be recovered. These lands are lung spaces of the city," he said.

'Increase green cover'

The minister said efforts were being made to increase the green cover by taking up plantation activities and also trying to bring a regime where afforestation drivers are audited to account for the survival rate of the plants.

Three doctors arrested for sex determination test

MANDYA, DHNS: The police have arrested three doctors on the charge of conducting sex determination tests illegally on 31 pregnant women.

The suspects have been handed over to judicial custody.

The arrested are Dr Divya Chetana, of Chetana Maternity Centre, Dr Harshit of Navi Diagnostic Centre and Dr Harish of Kushal Diagnostic Centre in K R Pet taluk, Mandya district.

Dr Priyanka, a gynaecologist at a government hospital in the city, is at large. The police are on the lookout for her.

Upa Lokayukta Justice B Veerappa registered a suo motu case on complaints of illegal scanning of minor pregnant girls.

The Lokayukta police had traced the diagnostic centres in K R Pet, which were involved in alleged illegal sex determination tests on pregnant women.

The Lokayukta police had registered a case alleging that the centres violated the law by not reporting girls under the age of 18 to the local police station and the relevant authority as per the POCSO Act, when they came for scanning.

In all, 12 separate FIRs have been filed against 17 accused in the urban and rural police stations.

Complaints have been filed against a government doctor, three private doctors, a junior female health assistant, an Asha worker and private individuals.

Steps to reform KPSC as per public sentiments: KBG

HASSAN, DHNS: Revenue and District In-charge Minister Krishna Byregowda (KBG) said that the government is taking steps to reform the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) in line with public sentiments.

"We will not discuss what the previous government has done. Our objective is to solve the problem," he told reporters here.

Gowda said, "The recruitment process in the KPSC is not going well. There are many problems, including irregularities and delays".

The minister said, "A decision has been taken to reduce the burden of KPSC by recruiting C Group employees through the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA)."

"A House Committee, constituted for this purpose, had 15 members earlier. Now, it has been reduced to eight. This is not an investigation commission," Gowda said.

Internal reservation: Govt issues order

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has issued an order implementing internal reservation within the 15% quota available to Scheduled Castes.

Within the SC quota, the allocation is 5.25%, 5.25%, and 4.50% respectively to Category 'A' (Dalit Left), Category 'B' (Dalit Right) and Category 'C' (touchable and marginalised nomadic communities).

The order also instructs all departments to expedite direct recruitment to 56,432 posts already approved by the Finance Department.

In Category 'C', 20% of government jobs and seats in educational institutions will be reserved for the 59 most backward groups within the Scheduled Castes. If candidates from these 59 communities are not available at any time, those posts and seats will be allotted to other castes within Category 'C', the order states

Don't enforce revised regulations on green energy producers, HC tells authorities

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka high court has passed an interim order directing the authorities not to enforce the Revised Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) (Deviation Settlement Mechanism and Related Matters) Regulations, 2024 against the petitioners.

Justice K S Hemalekha passed the interim order in a petition filed by National Solar Energy Federation of India and others, including wind energy producers.

The court also ordered notice to the union government, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, Grid Controller of India, the Meteorological department and others while adjourning the hearing to June 10.

The petitioners challenged Regulations 6 (2) (b) and 8 (4) of the 2024 Regulations. Under these Rules (DSM regime), stakeholders are required to forecast and declare day and week-ahead renewable power generation for each pooling station or each generating station. The new rules, came into effect from April 1, 2026, and seeks to alter the formula for computation of deviation and imposes stringent deviation bands insofar as shortfall or excess electricity supply and contains enhanced penalties.

"Pending consideration of the writ petition and that the petitioners are willing to continue under the earlier DSM regime and comply with the existing deviation norms, the operation of Regulations 6 (2) (b) and 8 (4) of the DSM Regulations, 2024 shall not be enforced against the petitioners to the extent of revised formula and enhanced penalties, till the next date of hearing. The petitioners shall continue under the earlier DSM regime, deviation up to 15% shall be governed in terms of the earlier framework and the petitioners shall pay deviation charges," Justice K S Hemalekha said in the interim order. The court further stated that the authorities are at liberty to seek vacating or modification of the interim order.

The counsel for the petitioners said DSM framework regulates deviation from scheduled generation and imposes financial consequences to maintain grid discipline. The renewable energy generation (solar/wind) is inherently weather dependent and uncontrollable, unlike conventional sources, it was contended.

The petitioners said the 2024 Regulations have been notified without compliance of mandatory prior publication under Sec 178 (3) of the Electricity Act, 2003. The draft notification did not have revised deviation formula as ultimately notified, and so, stakeholders were denied meaningful opportunity to object to substantive change, they said.

KSCA allays fears on CCTV cameras

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) on Tuesday sought to allay concerns over damage to CCTV cameras at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, clarifying that the systems in question were privately installed and had no bearing on official security arrangements.

On April 24, when the stadium hosted an RCB-GT IPL match, over 240 cameras became non-functional, disrupting surveillance across key security zones.

Cubbon Park police have booked two employees of IVS Digital Solutions, a sub-vendor for Staqu Technologies Pvt Ltd. This Gurugram-based company provides AI-driven surveillance solutions on IPL match days.

The employees allegedly entered the CCTV control room without valid passes and damaged the Network Video Recorder (NVR) systems and fibre connections. The affected cameras covered crucial locations such as entry gates, perimeter zones and concourses. Due to the disruption on match day, officials could not provide live feeds to police personnel, it said.

Jyothiraj is Odisha's ambassador for adventure

CHITRADURGA, DHNS: Rock climber Jyothiraj from Chitradurga, nicknamed Kothi Raj, known for his prowess in climbing rock faces, fort walls and tall buildings, has become the ambassador for mountaineering and adventure sports of Odisha.

Odisha Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida announced Jyothiraj as the ambassador for the adventure climbing campaign being organised in Odisha's famous mountain, Mahendragiri.

Odisha Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida felicitates rock climber Jyothiraj after he was chosen as the ambassador for mountaineering and adventure sports of Odisha.

Pravati felicitated Jyotiraj in Odisha recently. She said, "Jyothiraj's experience will give a new dimension to the Mahendragiri mountaineering. Odisha's tourism and adventure sports will see progress".

The rock climber said he was happy that the Odisha government had recognised him. The meeting with the deputy chief minister was memorable.

"My main objective is to act as an ambassador for the Mahendragiri adventure campaign and attract the youth there to adventure sports," said Jyothiraj.

Avenues

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Fluency in English communication is a must
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President, R.V. Education Trust, Yadgiri

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: B35/SEE(PM)/22415/2021-22/448 Dated : 28.04.2026
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
KPTCL intends to engage retired Tahsildar and retired Revenue Inspector on contract basis from the Government Departments to take up tasks of liaising with Revenue Authorities, following up land acquisition cases for new substations, facilitation, fixation and disbursement of land, corridor and tree-cut compensation and to expedite revenue-related clearances pertaining to the respective project circles.
Interested persons are requested to attend Walk-in-Interview with the copies of (i) Aadhar Card (age proof) (Age limit: 65 years), (ii) retirement certificate.
Walk-in- Interview schedule

Date	Venue	Time
11.05.2026	11th Floor, Board Room, Corporate Office, Indhana Bhavana, Bengaluru.	10.00 am To 3.00pm

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Electy.,)
Project Monitoring & MIS, KPTCL, Corporate Office,
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INVITES APPLICATION
FACULTY: FINANCE, HR, IT, ANALYTICS, QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES
8+ years of Experience. MBA, Ph.D. from reputed Institutions. Academicians with prior Corporate Experience will be preferred. Faculty for UG (Bangalore University) and PG (AICTE)
RESEARCH GUIDE & FACULTY
Ph.D. with 15 years of Experience in teaching & 3+ years of post Ph.D. with publications indexed in Scopus / ABDC and ability to supervise and guide Ph.D. students on Full-time/Visiting.
MANAGER PLACEMENTS
8+ years of Experience with excellent communication and networking skills. Having worked in Business Development, HR Recruitment Consultancy or Placements with educational institution preferred.
HOSTEL WARDEN
8+ years of Experience handling a hostel in a Higher Education Institute and ready to stay in the Hostel Campus. Knowledge of English, Hindi and any regional language is a must.
Candidates from Bangalore staying in and around 15 km. radius or willing to shift near the campus, only need to apply. Faculty with SC/ST background or residing in Karnataka are encouraged to apply.
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Street vendors fighting to stay in business

As the LPG crisis drags on, many are shrinking menus, scaling back on quality, or shutting shop

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

The persistent LPG crisis has dampened the vibrant street food scene in Bengaluru. Bustling carts have been bundled up, the tempting aromas are near-absent and famed chaat corners seem less crowded than usual. Areas such as Jayanagar, J P Nagar, V V Puram, Basaveshwara Nagar, and Rajarajeshwarinagar, all haunts of hungry regulars, have seen a decline as food hawkers are operating on razor-thin margins.

Several hawkers told *Metrolife* that, despite steady sales, they have struggled to break even since the crisis began, especially those forced to buy cylinders on the black market, often paying nearly twice the price to keep their stoves running.

Vendors who were selling food cooked on the spot are the worst affected. Think momos, 'Chinese' dishes, bhajji, pakoda, pav bhaji, fried potatoes, and dosa. Harisha H B, who runs a dosa and idli cart, says he raised prices by five per cent, yet still struggles to break even. Footfalls have dropped, he adds.

Customers, too, are noticing the strain. Khushi S, a resident of Rajajinagar, says she has seen fewer carts over the past month, along with smaller menus. The quality of the few remaining dishes are below par. Smaller carts have shut down, she says, and even those that returned show visible differences in taste and consistency.

Michael Yeptho, who ran a popular Chinese stall in Rajarajeshwarinagar, shut shop despite strong demand. Using one cylinder a week became unsustainable when he had to buy each refill on the black market, while rent and other expenses added to mounting costs.

Prune it till you make it

Others are experimenting to survive. Pulkesh Anil, a sweet-corn vendor in J P Nagar, shifted from LPG to a kerosene stove and now to an electric steamer. But unreliable access to power limits mobility, and he says he will reassess his options soon.

Price adjustments are visible across the board. M Sameer, from Yelahanka, notes that items like pav bhaji and chicken rolls now cost Rs 10-15 more. Vendors cite broader inflation along with fuel costs. Some have cut the quantity instead. Vinod Shasthri, a pani puri vendor in Jayanagar, says he has reduced the masala peas in masala puri and limited the number of plates, unwilling to raise prices.

A food cart in Ganga Nagar that has been closed temporarily. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Menu pruning is widespread. Rajaram, who runs a stall in J P Nagar, has removed deep-fried items like potato twisters, smileys, and fries because they consume too much gas. Vaishnav Gowda, from Ramachandrapura, says smaller carts now offer only three or four items.

Concerns about quality

Quality concerns are growing. Anugraha Reddy, who lives near Sahakar Nagar, says food is sometimes undercooked or oil is reused more frequently. Operating hours have also shrunk. Amrita, who sells fried snacks in Jayanagar, has cut her timings to the peak evening window to save gas and manage costs.

At V V Puram, regulars Ashriya and Akash say several stalls now remain shut for a couple of days each week, and some momo vendors have stopped setting up altogether. For a few vendors, the crisis has coincided with the election season, prompting temporary exits. Sujan Lama closed his momo stall and returned to Siliguri to vote. Ajay and Kavita, who run a kebab stall in Basaveshwara Nagar, said they were headed to Tamil Nadu and would decide on returning based on how the situation evolves.

C E Rangaswamy, State President of the Karnataka Pradesh Beedhi Beedhi Vyaparigala Okkuta, says business has visibly declined in Rajajinagar, Gandhi Nagar, and Basavanagudi, while some areas like Vijayanagar remain relatively better. He adds that summer heat has also dampened appetite, compounding the impact of the LPG crisis, with commercial cylinders now costing around Rs 6,000 apiece in the current market.

Exhibition of Mario Miranda's cartoons from Saturday

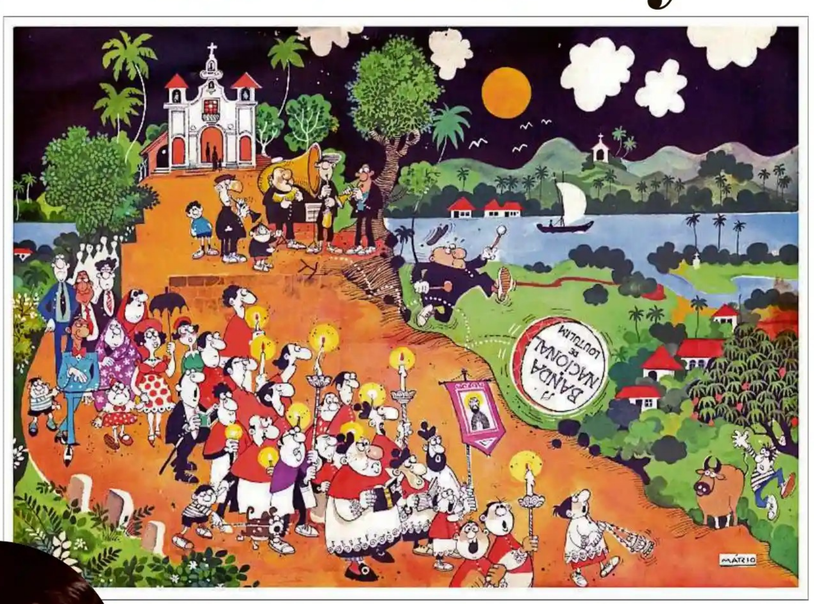
The month-long showcase commemorates his birth centenary

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

A new exhibition featuring the works of Mario Miranda will open on May 2 at the Indian Institute of Cartoonists (IIC) at Midford Garden, Craig Park Layout.

The show commemorates the legendary cartoonist's birth centenary with a mix of his cartoons and personal photographs.

The late Miranda is best known for his quirky take on life in Goa, his home state. But his connection with Bengaluru, too, runs deep. He was a student at St Joseph's Boys High School, Museum Road, and is said to have kept a diary of his sketches of his teachers and classmates. After school, he moved to Mumbai and later on lived between Mumbai and Goa.



Mario Miranda is known for his quirky take on life in Goa.

Mario Miranda

After working with leading publications in India, he won a grant that took him to Portugal, where he lived for a year. From there, he moved to London, where he worked with multiple newspapers. He also worked with Charles Schulz of 'Peanuts' in the US.

"Miranda's style changed immensely after his years in Portugal and the UK. It became a lot more colourful," notes V G Narendra, who runs IIC. He adds that Miranda, who returned to India in the late 80s, was among the first few patrons of the Institute, which was set up in 2001. "We started it in my house in Nandini Layout, and Mr Miranda was very supportive right from the beginning," Narendra recalls.

Over 100 framed works will be showcased as part of 'Mario@100'. Among them are photographs of Miranda with noted writers and journalists. 'The Open Eyes: A journey through Karnataka' by Dom Moraes, a book featuring his illustrations, was first published in 1976. It was commissioned by the government. Some of his illustrations from this book will also be on display.

Some of his famous fictional characters, such as the secretary Miss Fonseca and Bollywood star Rajani Nimbupani, among others, will feature in the works on display. "We have printed the cartoons that have appeared in newspapers digitally and framed them," shares Narendra, adding that he donated some of his original sketches to the Institute over 20 years ago.

The cartoonist, who passed away in 2011, "never used a computer. I still have some of his handwritten letters to me," Narendra concludes.

May 2-23. Entry free. At the Indian Institute of Cartoonists, off M G Road. For details, call 99800 91428.

EVENTS

Bookbinding workshop
Bind and Beyond will host a workshop on the art of bookbinding on May 2, 1.30 pm, at Atta Galata, Indira Nagar. Open to those 16 and above. Tickets available at attagalatta.com

Kannada play
The Theatre Harvest will stage the Kannada play Supari Kole (Supari Murder) on May 3, 7 pm, at Dr C Ashwath Kala Bhavana, Basavanagudi. Tickets online.

Contemporary performance
The Interlink Theatre will stage 'Y- What refuses to Fade' directed by Remith Ramesh, on May 2, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm, at Ranga Shankara, J P Nagar. Tickets online.

Project uses snail mail to forge links

Thara Thomas and Dhanya Rajaram's collaborative artist book. (Right) Shaista Banu and Advithi Emmi's artwork.

As many as 15 women artists have come together to exchange art and ideas

M S RISHABH SHANKAR
TEAM METROLIFE

When distance posed a challenge for us to meet physically, we decided to interact and express via art to close that gap," says Advithi Emmi, curator of the 'Homelabour Collective'. Dhanya Rajaram is co-curator of the exhibition.

What began as a way for three friends to stay connected has grown into a 10-month project, running from April 2025, involving 15 artists, 99 mails by post and 198 exchanges. The participants — all women — include writers, educators, an anthropologist and an art historian, who contributed alongside their professional commitments. The idea was to avoid adding pressure to their routines, encouraging them instead to spend a few minutes engaging with art. Participants could pause, leave or rejoin the project at any point.

The project evolved through snail mail. Artists sent prompts, ideas, artworks or materials to assigned partners across India and in countries including Japan, Egypt, Latvia, Germany, Switzerland and Poland through the post. Each exchange invited further development by the receiving artist, resulting in diverse works. "One artist even mailed another a plant, and I sent seeds," says Advithi. Every month, artists worked in pairs: one initiating with an idea, a partial drawing or materials, and the other completing it. "There was room for artists to send anything they wanted, often reflecting what their lives were at the time," says Dhanya.

Alongside the exchanges, the curators engaged in ongoing discussions around authorship, ownership and credit — questioning whether an artwork belongs more to its concept or its execution. These questions inform the works to be presented at the Venkatappa Art Gallery from June 5 to 11, where both the conceptualiser and creator are acknowledged.

An exhibition at 1Shanthiroad gallery held on April 26 displayed 80 envelopes carrying these exchanges, tracing how ideas travelled across geographies.

CITY MIX

Talk on wild poop

Based on 'The Big Book of Wild Poop', a fully illustrated, gloriously punny book published by WWF India and Juggernaut, author Shweta Taneja and editor Anita Mani will join scientists Uma Ramakrishnan and Seena Narayanan Karimbumkara in conversation about how wild poop is transforming conservation science, in a talk titled 'Scat Matters' on May 2, 6.30 pm, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. RSVP to bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Musical performance

Musan events are hosting 'The Qawwali Story', an evening of soulful music, culture, and tradition with the Sabri Brothers, who will perform a Sufi Qawwali music set. Alongside the musical experience, the event includes shopping and food stalls. Open to ages 5 and above, with an ethnic and casual dress code. Tickets online. Check @musanevents on Instagram.

'Bengaluru's Soul' unveiled at airport

The 'Bengaluru's Soul' sculpture by artist Jaume Plensa (inset).

A monumental new artwork now anchors the arrival experience at Kempegowda International Airport. 'Bengaluru's Soul', a large-scale sculpture by renowned Spanish artist Jaume Plensa, was unveiled on Saturday.

Installed at the Terminal Two Arrival Forecourt, the sculpture, crafted in painted stainless steel, measures 500 x 319 x 375 cm. It presents a serene, contemplative human form composed of intricately layered letters of Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Arabic, Japanese, Thai, Chinese, Cyrillic, Armenian, Korean, Greek, Hebrew and Latin, with mathematical symbols interspersed throughout.

"The work invites viewers into a moment of introspection, using language as both structure and metaphor to reflect the diversity and plurality that define Bengaluru," Plensa explains.

Plensa, internationally celebrated for his public installations across cities such as Chicago, London, and Tokyo, is known for exploring themes of identity, humanity, and silence. In 'Bengaluru's Soul', these ideas take shape through a delicate balance of scale and stillness, where the monumental form contrasts with the lightness of its open, text-based surface.

"I want my art to stay as pockets of peace littered around the world, especially in these times of unrest and war," Plensa tells *Metrolife*, adding, "'Bengaluru's Soul' is my first piece in India, and I hoped to capture the versatility of the city in this simple sculpture." The piece took about a year to build.

The installation was unveiled by Spain's Ambassador to India, Juan Antonio March Pujol, in the presence of Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge, Hari Marar, MD and CEO, Bangalore International Airport Limited, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, chairperson, Biocon Group, and the artist.

Filmmaking workshop in city

TEAM METROLIFE

Bangalore Film Forum is organising a five-day filmmaking workshop between May 18 and 22. It will be led by independent filmmaker Don Palathara, known for such films as '1956', 'Central Travancore' and 'Family'.

The workshop aims to offer aspiring filmmakers an opportunity to engage with cinema beyond conventional production methods, focusing on observation and simplicity. The course, structured over five days, will begin with understanding how to watch films from a filmmaker's perspective. It will be followed by sessions on the art of filmmaking, working with constraints and observational and staging exercises.

From May 18 to 22, 10 am to 6 pm at Untitled Arts Foundation, J P Nagar. The workshop costs between Rs 15,000 and Rs 20,000. Details on Urbanaut. For queries, write to programs@bangaloreforumforum.com

INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY

A mental reset with dance

City practitioners share how dance is emerging as a medium for therapy and renewal

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Dance in Bengaluru has moved beyond performance, as a space for release, recovery and reconnection. Across studios and movement institutions, practitioners say movement and "embodied expression" are steadily entering conversations around emotional wellness and everyday stress.

For Dr Vandana Supriya Kasaravalli, founder-director of Anandi Arts Foundation, the process begins with helping participants reconnect body, mind and emotion through movement rooted in 'navarasa', the classical framework of nine emotions. Through facial expression, gesture, voice work and guided movement, she helps individuals access feelings they have often held back for years.

"Many people suppress sadness, anger, fear or pain because they do not know where to place it," she says. "When those emotions are expressed instead of stored inside, there is a sense of relief and lightness."

Trained in counselling at Banjara Academy, Dr Vandana combines therapeutic listening with embodied practice, creating a space for confidence-building, stress management and inner healing.

Conducted as both regular student engagement and need-based special sessions, these classes address concerns ranging from addiction awareness and communication barriers to low confidence.

Training the educator

At Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts, founder and artistic director Jayachandran Palazhy says dance can no longer be treated as a standalone performance discipline "when many of the students today are increasingly neurodiverse, emotionally strained and socially disconnected". As part of its diploma in movement arts and pedagogy, students are introduced to the psychological and embodiment-based dimensions of movement so future instructors understand that teaching requires more than technical correction.

"Dance and movement, particularly with music, open up new neural channels," Palazhy notes, adding that this impacts concentration, bodily awareness and responsiveness. While neuroscience increasingly supports movement-based work in learning difficulties, Parkinson's, dementia and emotional regulation, he says the field still treats "such interventions too casually instead of as a committed discipline".

Beyond performance

At Tarantismo Creative Dance Company, co-partner Anusha Hegde says customised corporate workshops focus on breath, muscle activation and conscious movement. "People think dance always has to lead to a showcase, but it does not. Sometimes it is simply about exploring how your body moves," she says.

Sessions begin with breath work, meditation, yoga stretches and mudras before moving into guided movement drawn from belly dance, semi-classical, Bollywood or Latin styles. Most requests still come from the corporate sector, where workshops or short wellness programmes are often preferred.

Class as sanctuary

For Sharat R Prabhath, director of Prabhat Arts International, the therapeutic aspect of dance is not found in separate modules.

Henna Raisinghani, who is the instructor for the movement and dance therapy at Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts, performs 'Razai', a work commissioned by Serendipity Arts Festival.

"We do not run therapy classes as such, but every session becomes a motivational session," he says.

Despite serious spinal injuries and medical advice to slow down, Prabhath says dancing consistently leaves him feeling physically better and mentally more alert. "Movement is medicine," he says.

He sees the same among adult students who come to class amid caregiving stress, illness at home, financial pressure or difficult marriages. "With salutation, grounding, music and repetition, Bharatanatyam and Kathak create a psychological shift from daily clutter into focused inwardness," he says. The result, he adds, is an emotional reset.

Ashoka demands House panel on Bengaluru pothole 'scam'

'Congress govt has spent Rs one lakh to fill a pothole'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka on Tuesday demanded a House committee of Bengaluru legislators to review the quality of pothole filling work and the amount spent. "We will expose the bogus billing too," he said.

Dismissing Congress government's claims that potholes had been filled, Ashoka said, "Money has clearly gone down the drain as potholes continue to remain. People of Bengaluru are cursing the government for hiking taxes, price of milk and alcohol. E-khata is a big scam. The Congress government is a master in swindling money as it has spent Rs one lakh to fill a pothole."

Tired of the "constant power tussle" between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, Congress MLAs are rushing to Delhi seeking justice, claimed Ashoka who added that the CM had "intentionally" called the special cabinet meeting on SC internal reservation despite knowing Shivakumar was in Delhi.

"This points to factional feud... It is a dead government," he added.

The BJP leader demanded the government to release Rs 10 crore to each constituency for drinking water as the state was facing a "drought-like situation."

Slamming Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar after the NIA court convicted the accused Mohammad Shariq in the 2022 Mangaluru cooker blast, Ashoka said, "It is Karnataka's misfortune that selfish people, who defend traitors as 'brothers' for the sake of a few votes, are now aspiring to become chief minister."

Referring to the November 19-blast (2022), he alleged Shivakumar and Congress leaders had earlier stood by terrorists by mocking the incident as mere "diversion politics". "Now, they have seen the truth," Ashoka added.

"Shariq should have been hanged. The state government should appeal before the high court. Once released, he will continue to be an anti-national. If government does not appeal, it will be seen as supporting such elements," he added.

On the Janivara row, Ashoka said that Congress' "lack of action" has led to repeat of such incidents. "If BJP comes to power, we will frame clear rules and also punish the erring officials," he added.

JD(S) legal cell petitions Guv over GBA elections

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Legal Cell of JD(S) has petitioned the Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Tuesday requesting for constitutional intervention to restore democratic functioning at the local level to conduct elections for Greater Bengaluru.

In the petition, they stated that the situation would warrant being brought to the notice of the President of India as indicative of a failure of constitutional machinery in the state, necessitating appropriate constitutional intervention to restore democratic functioning at the local level.

"As the highest constitutional authority in the state, your excellency is entrusted with the duty of ensuring that constitutional bodies function independently and in accordance with the Constitution and that democratic processes are not subverted," they stated.

The petition further reads, "In these circumstances, we most respectfully seek your intervention to instruct the state Election Commission and the state government to abide by the constitutional mandate and to take such appropriate and necessary action as may be warranted to ensure strict constitutional compliance, including addressing any acts of delay or non-compliance by concerned authorities."

Two Kerala businessmen killed in road mishap on expressway

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two businessmen from Kerala were killed after the pickup truck they were travelling in rammed a divider on the Bengaluru - Mysuru Expressway near Ramanagara on Tuesday morning.

The deceased have been identified as Subin (35) and Ajith (35).

The accident occurred near Sangabasavana Doddi at around 7.30 am when the duo were travelling towards Mysuru. Ramanagara traffic police said Subin, who was driving the truck, lost control of the vehicle while taking the exit towards Ramanagara, causing it to crash into a road divider. The impact was severe, leaving the car completely mangled.

Preliminary investigation revealed that overspeeding is the cause of the accident. Driver's fatigue is also suspected to have played a role in the mishap.

The mangled remains of the pickup truck on Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway on Tuesday.

Both victims died on the spot and the bodies have been shifted for postmortem. Police have registered a case of negligent driving and further investigations are on.

Ragging: 18 vet students expelled from hostel

HASSAN, DHNS: A college management has expelled 18 senior students from its hostel in connection with a scuffle with their juniors over alleged ragging at a veterinary college hostel at Chikkahonnenahalli here on Tuesday.

It is said that the juniors opposed the ragging and questioned the seniors on Monday evening, which resulted in a scuffle between the two groups.

Many junior students were injured in the melee and were provided treatment at the hospital.

The college management, which verified the CCTV camera footage, identified those involved in the fight and expelled them from the hostel temporarily, said college principal Dr Nataraj.

"Action has been taken as per the decision of the college disciplinary committee. These students are not allowed to enter the hostel at present," he said.

Website of Centre for Agricultural and Allied Laws

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka High Court judge Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav said there was a need for agri-businesses to keep farmers, ecology and sustainability at the core of their motives and vision, while striving to provide high-quality products.

He was speaking after inaugurating the official website (www.caal.in.net) of the Centre for Agricultural and Allied Laws (CAAL), Bengaluru.

Justice Yadav lauded the first-of-its-kind effort to institute an agro-legal training centre and congratulated the team at CAAL, particularly the minds behind the training institute, B Venkataramanappa and Nitin Ramesh.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: EL-11-26, Date: 27.04.2026. E-Tender is invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer(G), Eastern Railway, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following work from reputed tenderers having valid Electric contractor Licence and capable to complete the following work financially. **Name of the work with its location:** (A) Asansol Division–Asansol- Provision of 04 nos. lift at Asansol station (Lift Part). (B) 05 years comprehensive Maintenance Contract for lifts after completion of 02 years warranty period. (C) Electrical power supply part. **Tender value**: ₹ 1,27,10,271.25. **Earnest Money**: ₹ 2,54,200. **Cost of Tender Documents:** Nil. **Date and time of closing & opening :** 19.05.2026 at 11.00 hrs. **Completion period for the work:** 12 months. Complete details can be seen in the Railway's website **www.ireps.gov.in**

(ASN-41/2026-27)

Tender Notices are also available at website: **www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in**

Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No. DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/01/2026-27 Date: 28.04.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites the tender from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The Bidder shall submit the bid through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Other details may be seen in the bid document.

Sl. No	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender Rs.in lakhs (Excluding GST)	EMD (in Rupees)	Stipulated Period of Contract
1	Mitigation of Fly infestation, protection of public health and development of basic Infrastructure in nearby villages around 5 processing plants in Yeshwanthapura Assembly Constituency.	5604.00	5610000/-	11 Months

Calendar of Events: 1. Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **07.05.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs. in KPP Portal. 2.** Pre bid meeting: **08.05.2026 at 15.00 Hrs** at the **office of CE & CGM-2 (Tech),** BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore. **3.** Last date for submission of the bids: **19.05.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs. 4.** Date of opening of Technical bids on: **20.05.2026 at 10.30 Hrs. 5.** Date of opening of Financial bids will be notified to technically qualified bidders.

Sd/- Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/AAA/402/2026-27

PUBLIC NOTICE (LOST)

THE GENERAL PUBLIC ARE HEREBY NOTICED BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE THAT Sri. Gajendra K S/o Kannan, aged about 41 years, residing at No.519, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Bhavani Nagar, Bengaluru south BSK 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560070, is the General Power of the Holder of Sri.Santhosh C.N. is the absolute owner of the schedule described property.I am informed that the Original Sale Deed dated 14.10.2015 registered as Document No.GAN-1-02941/2015-16, stored in C.D No.GAND245 in Book No.I, executed by Smt. Bobby R.C. in favour of Santhosh C.N in the office of the Sub Registrar Gandhinagar, Bengaluru 560009, Pertaining to the schedule property of document is lost misplaced and now the complaint lodged in connection on E-Complaint lodged on 28.04.2026 at Bengaluru City and bearing its Reg No: 2176519/2026. Therefore if any person has any information or claim to prove that the above referred Sale Deed is lodging with her/some other person in connection with a legal transaction such person may file in a writing the information or his objections or claims with all supporting documentary evidence. If any claim or objections is not received by Registered Post by the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this Notice, our client will proceed to complete the transaction assuming the statement of owner to be true. Any claims lodged thereafter will not be entertained by our client.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of the schedule property bearing Municipal No. 308, situated at Rajmahal Villas, 2nd Stage, HIG House, Bengaluru in PID No. 100-767308 measuring East to West 19.60 + 18.65 /2 mtrs North to South 18.30+18.50/2 mts totally measuring 351.91 square feet of residential building standing thereof consisting of ground, first, second and third floor, 1st floor measuring about 297.28 square feet, of super built up area on the 1st floor consisting in the schedule property together with 1000 square feet of individual share right title in the schedule property together with common passage, common stair with all right of easements together with one car parking area in ground floor with all civic amenities with RCC roofing mosaic flooring and semi furnished house.

SRIDHARA K.M Advocate NO.5/1, 2nd floor, S.L.N Mahal 3rd Cross, Link road, Bengaluru -03. Date:28.04.2026 Bengaluru

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Open e-Tender Notice No. DRM/Works/SC/41-53/2026/OT, Dt. 23.04.2026

PUB/129/26

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the following works up to 14.00 hours on 22.05.2026

Sl.No.: 01, **e-Tender No.:** 41_CR_SC_26_OT, **Name of the work :** SNF-SC-KZJ Section: Provision of Divyangjan amenities to meet short term targets in stations in SNF-SC-KZJ Section. **Approx. Tender Value :** Rs. 2,99,86,480/-, **EMD:** Rs. 5,99,800/-, **Completion period in Months:** 06, **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

Sl.No.: 02, **e-Tender No.:** 42_CR_SC_26_OT, **Name of the work :** SC-KZJ Section : Proposed replacement of steel girders with PSC slabs for Br.No. 366 DN Exg. 10x12.20m GB at Km. 263/22-30 in SC-KZJ section. **Approx. Tender Value:** Rs. 3,86,98,172/-, **EMD:** Rs. 7,74,000/-, **Completion period in Months :** 09, **Maintenance period in Months:** 48

Sl.No.: 03, **e-Tender No.:** 43_CR_SC_26_OT, **Name of the work :** SC-KZJ Section: KZJ Development of Female Block, Circulating Area & other pending works of New Running Room at KZJ - in Phase-II. **Approx. Tender Value:** Rs. 3,28,51,020/-, **EMD:** Rs. 6,57,000/-, **Completion period in Months:** 09, **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

Sl.No.: 04, **e-Tender No.:** 44_CR_SC_26_OT, **Name of the work :** SC-KZJ section: Construction of Office cum stores building for Sr. Section Engineer (Signal) at BG. **Approx. Tender Value:** Rs. 2,07,37,666/-, **EMD:** Rs. 4,14,800/-, **Completion period in Months:** 09, **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

Sl.No.: 05, **e-Tender No.:** 45_S_SC_26_OT, **Name of the work :** Supply of potable drinking water through water tankers to stations and colonies under Sr.DEN/South/SC jurisdiction. **Approx. Tender Value:** Rs. 80,92,157/-, **EMD:** Rs.1,61,900/-, **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period in Months:** Nil

Sl.No.: 06, **e-Tender No.:** 46_S_SC_26_OT, **Name of the work :** Bhadrachalam Road Improvements to water supply arrangements Provision of main & 2nd entry B.Os, PF shelters, vehicle parking area etc. at BDCR. (Two Packet System). **Approx. Tender Value:** Rs. 14,25,09,544/-, **EMD:** Rs. 28,50,200/-, **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

Sl.No.: 07, **e-Tender No.:** 47_S_SC_26_OT, **Name of the work :** Bhadrachalam Road - Development of crowd control measures and additional holding area at BDCR during Godavari Pushkarams-2027. **Approx. Tender Value:** Rs. 9,53,59,974/-, **EMD:** Rs. 19,07,200/-, **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

Sl.No.: 08, **e-Tender No.:** 48_S_SC_26_OT, **Name of the work :** Bhdrachalam Road - Infrastructure development works at BDCR in view of Godavari Pushkarams-2027. **Approx. Tender Value:** Rs. 9,94,72,901/-, **EMD:** Rs. 19,89,500/-, **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

Sl.No.: 09, **e-Tender No.:** 49_N_SC_26_OT, **Name of the work :** BPQ-KZJ section: SSE/P.Way/MAGH, SKZR & BPA Provision of Drains Pathways, Standardisation of Dead ends, Removal of Muck etc in connection with safety related yard improvement & upgradation works at various yards under ADEN/BPA sub division. **Approx. Tender Value:** Rs. 7,14,57,772/-, **EMD:** Rs.14,29,200/-, **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

Sl.No.: 10, **e-Tender No.:** 50_N_SC_26_OT, **Name of the work :** SW 1) JMKT: Construction of CPWI office and shed at JMKT. SW 2) Construction of office cum stores building for SSE/Sig at SKZR over SC div. **Approx. Tender Value:** Rs. 4,46,25,450/-, **EMD:** Rs. 8,92,500/-, **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

Sl.No.: 11, **e-Tender No.:** 51_W_SC_26_OT, **Name of the work :** Supply of Potable drinking water through water tankers to stations, service buildings and colonies under Sr.DEN/West/SC jurisdiction. **Approx. Tender Value:** Rs. 64,87,013/-, **EMD:** Rs. 1,29,800/-, **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period in Months:** Nil

Sl.No.: 12, **e-Tender No.:** 52_NW_SC_26_OT, **Name of the work :** SW 1) Provision of Cover over platform at Bhalki-3 bays, Kamalnagar-3 bays, Janwal-3 Bays, Pangaon-3 Bays under ADEN/BIDR sub division in DEN/North-West jurisdiction. SW 2) Provision of Additional COPs at Udgir Railway station under ADEN/BIDR sub division in DEN/North-West jurisdiction. **Approx. Tender Value:** Rs. 4,17,17,923/-, **EMD:** Rs. 8,34,400/-, **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

Sl.No.: 13, **e-Tender No.:** 53_NW_SC_26_OT, **Name of the work :** PDPL - NZB Section: SW 1) SSE/P. Way/ARMU jurisdiction: Proposed safety related yard improvement upgradation works at various yards. SW 2) SSE/P.Way/KRMR jurisdiction: Proposed safety related yard improvement and upgradation works at various yards. **Approx. Tender Value:** Rs. 3,00,63,943/-, **EMD:** Rs. 6,01,300/-, **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period in Months:** 45 Days

1. Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers may be considered.
2. Tender conditions/other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at ireps.gov.in which can be downloaded, can be Participated and can view any modifications if any.
3. All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit EMD through online payments / BG only.
4. The tender notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Sr.DEN/Co-ordination, Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway, and Secunderabad which can be seen on all working days.
5. The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.
6. All the prospective tenderers are advised to get GSTN identification Nos. and submit along with their offer.

Visit our site at "www.ireps.gov.in"

Sr. DEN/Co-Ordination/ Secunderabad

A149

For further tender conditions/ details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

ಕಾರ್ಕಳ ಪುರಸಭೆ
ಕಾರ್ಕಳ – 574104, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
Town Municipal Council, Karkala, Udupi Dist.
Website : karkalatown.mrc.gov.in Email : itstaff_ulb_karkala@yahoo.co.in, tmckarkala@yahoo.co.in Ph. : 0825/-230292, 08258-231023 Fax : 08258-235664

ಕಾಪುಸ: ಸಿಆರ್:ತಾ.ವಿ:76:ಅಮೃತ್–2.0:ಜ.ಪು.ಜಾ.ಉ.ಅ/2024–25 ದಿ : 24.04.2026

ಕಾರ್ಕಳ ಪುರಸಭೆ ಮರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಕಳ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಅಮೃತ್ 2.0 ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ (Standard Tender Document) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು KPPP ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **(Website: kppp.karnakata.gov.in/)** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1. DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT56654/CALL-2 ರೂ. 63.12 ಲಕ್ಷ
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **05.05.2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ**
ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **07.05.2026 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆ**
ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **11.05.2026 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ**

ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಕಾರ್ಕಳ

CITY CORPORATION BELAGAVI
C.T.S. No. 4821/26, 4821/27, R.S. No. 1005, Subhasha Nagara, Belagavi, Ph. : 0831-2405304, E-mail : itstaff_ulb_belgaum@yahoo.com, Website : www.belgaumcity.mrc.gov.in

No.CCB/PWD/EE/SWM/TND/KPPP/2026-27 Dated: 27/04/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

The Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Act 1999 Rules 2000 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the **Procurement of 7 different machineries and vehicles under 15th Finance tied grants of 2025-26 years & 2 different work like man power supply and machineries under Corporation General fund.** The last date for the submission of tender is **Date:13-05-2026.** For more details visit online website **(https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Any Addendum/Corrigendum will be published in Karnataka Public Procurement portal only.

Sd/- Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi.

DIPR/Belagavi/164/Manipal/2026-27

PROVISION OF LC GATE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

E-Tender Notice No.: SNT-02-LMG-2026-27 Dated: 24-04-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:- **Name of work:** Provision of an advanced integrated voice cum data LC gate communication system at 47 gates in Lumding division. **Tender value:** ₹1,81,15,418.27/-. **Bid Security:** ₹3,62,300/-. **Date & time of closing of tender:** at **15.00** hrs. & opening at **15.30** hrs. on **18-05-2026**. The complete information with tender documents of above e-Tender will be available in **www.ireps.gov.in**

DSTE, Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CN/04/2026 Date: 22.04.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Tender No.	Description of brief
56264033	Permanently Lubricated High Density Polyethylene Duct (PLB HDPE) Pipe 40/33 mm dia along with End cap,End Plug, Cable Sealing Plug and Eight couplers for each km as per/RDSO/SPN/TC/45/2013 REV.2 (up to Amdt.2) or Latest. Qty : 5300 kms

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 10.30 hrs on 25.05.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Material Manager/ Construction, Bengaluru Cantt.

PUB/72/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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South Western Railway - SWR @SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: ghanekal@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಾಆ/ಆನೇಕಲ್/ಟೆಂಡರ್/01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27–04–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಒಳ ರೋಗಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತಮ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಪಥ್ಯಾಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಬ್ರೆಡ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **27–04–2026. 2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **26–05–2026 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 3.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. 3)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ, ವೇಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **27–05–2026 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 3.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. 4)** ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ, ವೇಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **01–06–2026 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 3.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. 5)** ಅಂದಾಜು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ: **ರೂ. 54,00,000/– 6)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: **ರೂ. 1,35,000/– 7)** ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ: **ಸಹಾಯಕ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 7975330148. 8)** ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/399/ಆಡ್ವರ್ಟೋ/2026–27

Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Special Division
Ramanagara, Bengaluru South Dist.

No. EE/PWD/RMN Spl.Div./TND-02/2026-27 Date : 27.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited in two Cover system from the eligible **contractors for 02 works** of **Rs. 70.00 Lakhs** to **Rs. 182.30 Lakhs** through e-procurement portal as per the Standard bid documents. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Documents may be downloaded from **30.04.2026 to 15.05.2026**. Last date for submission of tender **15.05.2026 upto 16.00 hours.** Date of Pre-bid meeting **08.05.2026 at 11.30 Hours.** Date of opening of Technical bid **16.05.2026 (If possible) at 16.30 hours.** Tender Processing Fees, EMD as per E-Procurement. For more information contact the undersigned during Office Hours.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
PWD Special Division
Ramanagara

DIPR/BSD/38/SA/2026-27

|| ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪರಿಷದ್, ದುಮಕಾ ||
E-mail- z.pdumka2014@gmail.com

शुद्धि पत्र
Ref. PR No-377257 DISTRICT (26-27).D

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है, कि इस कार्यालय द्वारा प्रकाशित **ई0–निविदा** आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–**ZP-DUM-03/2026/Re-02** में निम्न रूपेण तिथि संशोधन किया जाता है :–

क्रं०	पूर्व की तिथि	संशोधित तिथि
1	ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :–दिनांक 27.04.2026 (अपराह्न 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक)।	ई0–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :–दिनांक 07.05.2026 (अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक)।
2	निविदा खुलने की तिथि एवं समयः–दिनांक–29.04.2026 (समय 2:00 बजे अपराह्न)।	निविदा खुलने की तिथि एवं समयः–दिनांक–09.05.2026 (समय 2:00 बजे अपराह्न)।

श्री रबीन कुमार मंडल
जिला अभियंता,
जिला परिषद, दुमका

PR 378621 (District)26-27*D

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No.: e-Tender/2026/14, Date: 27.04.2026. For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-tender for the following works **before 15.00 hrs.** on the date mentioned against items and will be **opened at 15.30 hrs. Sl.No.**-1. **Tender No.: E-KGP-WEST-08-2026. Description of work:** Kharagpur - Asanboni & Kharagpur - Midnapur section: Improvement of infrastructure at LC gates by providing ROSO type Height Gauges 22.5 sets at 28 Nos. Level X-ings under the jurisdiction of DEN/WEST/Kharagpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 3,60,50,548.75. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 7,21,000. **Date of Opening:** 13.05.2026. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender No.: E-KGP-WEST-09-2026. Description of work:** Mutation of balance portion of Railway land, duly converting the ownership details, survey of mutated Railway land and supply of Railway land boundary maps in Kharagpur division in Sardiha-Gidhni section in Jhargram district of West Bengal. **Tender Value:** ₹ 98,07,847.99. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,96,200. **Date of Opening:** 18.05.2026. **Sl.No.**-3. **Tender No.: E-KGP-WEST-10-2026. Description of work:** Mutation of balance portion of Railway land, duly converting the ownership details, survey of mutated Railway land and supply of Railway land boundary maps in Kharagpur division in Gidhni-Rakha Mines section in East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,93,61,993.47. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 3,87,200. **Date of Opening:** 18.05.2026. **Sl.No.**-4. **Tender No.: E-KGP-HQ-14-2026. Description of work:** Mutation of balance portion of Railway land, duly converting the ownership details, survey of mutated Railway land and supply of Railway land boundary maps in Kharagpur division at East Midnapore district in the state of West Bengal. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,27,41,731.97. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,54,800. **Date of Opening:** 18.05.2026. **Sl.No.**-5. **Tender No.: E-KGP-HQ-15-2026. Description of work:** Mutation of balance portion of Railway land, duly converting the ownership details, survey of mutated Railway land and supply of Railway land boundary maps in Kharagpur division at West Midnapore district in the state of West Bengal. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,72,46,665.65. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 5,44,900. **Date of Opening:** 18.05.2026. **Sl.No.**-6. **Tender No.: E-KGP-South-14-2026. Description of work:** Mutation of balance portion of Railway land, duly converting the ownership details, survey of mutated Railway land and supply of Railway land boundary maps in Kharagpur division at Baleswar district in the state of Odisha. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,81,08,042.65. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 3,62,200. **Date of Opening:** 18.05.2026. **Sl.No.**-7. **Tender No.: E-KGP-South-15-2026. Description of work:** Mutation of balance portion of Railway land, duly converting the ownership details, survey of mutated Railway land and supply of Railway land boundary maps in Kharagpur division at Mayurbhanj district in the state of Odisha. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,16,02,656.35. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 4,32,100. **Date of Opening:** 18.05.2026. **Sl.No.**-8. **Tender No.: E-KGP-East-22-2026. Description of work:** Mutation of balance portion of Railway land, duly converting the ownership details, survey of mutated Railway land and supply of Railway land boundary maps in Kharagpur division at Howrah district in the state of West Bengal. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,05,71,416.68. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,11,400. **Date of Opening:** 18.05.2026. **Tender Document Cost:** ₹ 0 (for Sl.No. 1 to 8 each). **Completion Period of the work:** 12 months (for Sl.No. 1 to 8 each). **Bidding start date:** From 29.04.2026 and up to 15.00 hrs. on 13.05.2026 (for Sl.No. 1) & from 04.05.2026 and up to 15.00 hrs. on 18.05.2026 (for Sl.No. 2 to 8 each). Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ descriptions/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for these works will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all tenders. **(PR-95)**

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga

No.: ACF/Tender-CAMPA/CR-3/2025-26 Date: 16.04.2026

Short-Term e-Tender Notice (Through e-Procurement Portal)

Short-Term Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 from interested Forest contractors registered in Forest Department as Forest contractors for the year 2026-27 and having experience of growing saplings of various sizes, plantation advance works and having experience of carrying out similar works as put to tender in the Forest Department and having necessary facility for growing of saplings in the limits of the zone where works have to be carried out for implementation of "Formation of Plantation and Maintenance" mentioned in the annexure, under CAMPA Head of Account, in forest areas coming in the limits of various Forest Zones of Shivamogga Regional Forest Division for the year 2026-27. For further information this office can be contacted during office hours and details of the Tender can be obtained through the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

1. Last date for submission of e-Tenders: 01.05.2026 up to 4.00 PM **2.** Date of opening the Tender: 02.05.2026 at 4.30 PM

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/131/04/143

Government of Karnataka
Executive Engineer, RDW&S, Division, Mysore

Short Term Tender Notification No: 01/2026-27 Date 24.04.2026

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Items rate tenders under KC Standard Bid documents (Two cover system) has been called **Providing services of Manpower on outsource basis for Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Mysore; Providing services of Manpower on outsource basis for Laboratory Employees of Mysuru District Lab K.R Nagara and H.D Kote Taluk Lab on outsource basis for Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Mysore; (Estimate cost Rs.89.25 Lakhs, 45.53 Lakhs)** under the **Head of Account: Support Activity**. Tender is been invited as per Karnataka transparency Act G.O.No.FD9 PCL 2004 Dt. 06.08.2005 and as per recent amendments, Date of uploading Tender forms under e-procurement Dt: **24.04.2026 5.30 PM** onwards, Last Date for submitting the filled Tender forms is 01.**05.2026 upto 5:30PM**, Opening of Technical bid **02.05.2026 5.30 PM** onwards, Opening of Financial bid after approval of Technical bid. Eligible Agencies can participate in the tender process and for e-procurement support contact e-procurement Tel. Phone No 080 – 22485867, 080-22485927. For more details log on to **https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in** or contact the Officer under signed at office hours. Phone No.0821-2460 495. Tender Form Fees – As per e-procurement.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW&S, Division, Mysore

DIPR/DDMYS/85/KSMCA/101/2026-27

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Teachers/ Professors

WANTED MATHEMATICS and PE TEACHER for High School. Clerk for PUC. 'DVS INSTITUTION', Magadi Main Road, Sunkadakatte. 9535305299.

SARVODAYA NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL
(Affiliated to CISCE [KA-152], New Delhi)
No. 12, 10th Main Road, Binny Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore - 560040
Ph.: 080-23148310 / 23506790 www.sarvodayanps.com

Join Our Team Hiring Teachers for the Year 2026-27

We are currently seeking dedicated and enthusiastic teachers for various subjects across all levels. Competitive salary, supportive work environment, modern teaching facilities are some of the things you will have at Sarvodaya.

Current open positions:
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ATL – Candidate should have B E / B Tech in Electronics, knowledge and experience in Robotics and AI
·**Primary School**
Mathematics

Teachers across all levels must possess:
·B.Ed, Post Graduation Degree in respective subjects.
·3+ years of experience in ICSE/CBSE schools.
Send your updated resume to
sarvodayacareers@gmail.com
OR
Walk in for an interview on **04th MAY 2026**

VIDHYODAYA PUBLIC ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL
No 34, 31st Main Road, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru -96
WANTED TEACHERS
Head Mistress - MA / M Sc with B.Ed/M.Ed
Asst. Mistress - Math B.Sc with B.Ed
Asst. Mistress - Kannada MA with B.Ed
Asst. Mistress - Science B.Sc P.cm C.bz
Asst. Mistress - English /Social science /Hindi
Gmail: Vidhyodayapublicenglishschool@gmail.com
Phone No.: 9481476037, 8310456547

BISHOP COTTON BOYS' SCHOOL
BENGALURU
REQUIRES
JUNIOR SCHOOL
FRENCH TEACHER (PART-TIME) : Diploma from Indian or foreign universities or A 2 level certificate examination from Alliance Franchaise or Level 2 certificate in French from the institute of foreign languages, Hyderabad.
ISC
ACCOUNTANCY TEACHER : M.Com., B.Ed with specialization in Accountancy and good command over English.
Apply to: The Principal,
BISHOP COTTON BOYS' SCHOOL
Residency Road, Bangalore – 560 025.
E-mail: bcbs@bishopcottonboysschool.edu.in
Last date for submission of applications: Friday, the 8th May 2026 before 3.00 p.m.
ROUNAQH

Wanted Experienced Lady Teachers with excellent communication skills in English
1. Lower Primary
Graduate with B.Ed./D.Ed.
2. Higher Primary
Graduate with a B.Ed. to teach Mathematics
Walk-in Interview
Thursday, 30th April 2026
Between: 9:30 am-11:30 am
Or Email your resume to info@florence.edu.in for an appointment.
Florence High School
3rd Block, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560 079
Tel : 080-23236160/41536695

WANTED TEACHER
SOCIAL & ENGLISH
Male or Female
Primary & High School,
Mathikere, Yeshwanthpur,
Bangalore. Contact:
No:- 9379191544.

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT
(Female) B.Com,
Experience 2 years
ESI, PF, Salary, Tally.
AUTOCAD DESIGNER
(Female) Coreldraw+
Solid works.
Experience. 2 years
for Industry in Peenya.
9972410541,
9845915484
infusilindia@infusil.in

DTP OPERTOR with experience Coral-Draw in design photo shop ETC 2 person required. Urgent. 9986647943/ 9611921742.

Marketing & Sales

WANTED SALES Managers, Sales Executives, Telecallers. Opportunity to earn up to 40,000 P.M. Contact 8867627879

GARMENT FACTORY AVAILABLE FOR RENT ON CONCESSIONAL RATE

No	Description of Machinery	Qtty
1	Flat Bed Single Head Embroidery Machinery	01
2	Sewing Machinery-Single Needle	25
3	Single Needle Lock Stitch Machinery	20
4	6/8-Inch Cloth Cutting Machinery	01
5	Double Needle Lock Stitch Machinery	01
6	Button Hole Making Machinery	01
7	Button/Button Hole Stitching Machinery	01
8	Hot Fusing Press Machinery	01
9	Industrial Grade Garments Washing Machine	01
10	Industrial Grade Tumbler Dryer	01
11	Flat Bed Steam Iron Press Machinery	02
12	216-Spindled T.F.O Machinery	03
13	288-Spindled Imported T.F.O Machinery	06
14	Silk Twisting Machinery	01
15	300-KG/H Steam Boiler Machinery	01
16	Silk Yarn Soaking Machinery	01

HIGHLIGHTS:-
• Around 30-Kms from Kempagowda International Airport. • All Machineries are imported with State of the Art Facilities. • Available Area is around 10,000.00-SQ.FT. • Free for the First Year. • Ideal for Silk Yarn Twisting. • Ideal for Readymade Garments Manufacturing. • Skilled Work Force Available Nearby.
Contact :- Nagaraja Gandhi : + 91 94480 59673
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COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT / LEASE
North facing Commercial Building Rent/Lease suitable for Bank & Office with all amenities ready to Occupy BTM 2nd Stage Near Silk Board Metro station on Main Road, stilt floor, 2nd & 3rd Each Floor 2000 Sq Plug and Play 4th Floor 1600 Sq with Mosaic Floor, With Sufficient Parking
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AVAILABLE INDUSTRIAL Warehouse 160000 sqft Vijipura Hoskote Contact: 9341234288/ 9663224353/ 9845417487.

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Residential/ Commercial

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ONLY 9 Sites on Pune Bangalore highway. Invest. Basava jayanti 10% discount extended to April 30. 7019251118

House

Vidyaranyapura

INDEPENDENT 60'X40' 4 BHK Duplex BEL Layout 2nd Stage S/F- Prime Location 16500/- sq.ft: 9844264852

Industrial & Factory

Tumkur Road

SALE 30 Acres Land Suitable for Industry, Warehouse, Residential School University Apartment. Dabaspet. NAIK: 9141326819

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SIDDARAM C JERATAGI** and **SIDDARAM C JERATGI,** residing at # 45/1-10, Flat 203, Lalehzar Apts, Palace Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru- 560001, declare that the above name pertain to me only. Henceforth I shall be known as **SIDDARAM C JERATAGI** for all documents purpose, vide affidavit dated 28-04-2026 sworn before notary C.Venkatapathy, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Samir Kayiparambil Vasudevan,** residing at Flat No. F01, Rich Bouquet, Hutchins Road, 2nd Cross, C.K. Garden St Thomas Town Post, Bangalore-560084, have changed our minor Son's name from **ADHITYA SAMIR** to **ADITHYA SAMIR** vide affidavit dated 27-04-2026 before notary C Santhosh, Bengaluru

Lost

LOST
I, **G.VEDAVATHI** resident of No.279, MS Ramaiah City, JP Nagar, Bangalore have lost Original Property bearing Sy. No. 75/2, 3 Acres 26 Guntas Sompura Kaval, Yadiyur, Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Tumkur Dist. Sale Deed Document No. 3399/52-53. While traveling on 10/04/2026 at Yediyur. If found contact nearest police station or Call: 7899907777

THIRUPATHI EDUCATION SOCIETY (R)

CMN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
(Affiliated to VTU-Belagavi, Recognized by GOK and Approved by AICTE - New Delhi)
18, Lingadhiranahalli, D Group Employess Layout, Herohalli, Vishwaneedam Post, Off Magadi Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 091 | **Call : 9480339078**

RECRUITMENT OF TEACHING & NON-TEACHING STAFF

The above society proposes to establish a new engineering institute titled **"CMN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY"** with a vision "To inculcate discipline, dedication, and determination in every step of life" from the academic year 2026-27 with the approval from All India Council for Technical Education New Delhi, affiliation from Visvesvaraya Technological University Belagavi, and recognition from Government of Karnataka. The Proposed institute is named after late **SRI C.M. NAGARAJ** Founder of East West Group Institutions and former Mayor of Bengaluru, The new institute intends of focus on developing innovative, adaptable, and ethical engineers ready for global challenges by emphasizing interdisciplinary learning with a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship, and social responsibility. The institute will offer programs such as BE in Computer Science and Engineering / Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning / Electronics & Communication Engineering / Electronics & Computer Engineering / Masters of Business Administration / Master of Computer Applications.

TEACHING
The new institute invites applications from the competent candidates, with a passion for teaching (Preferably with industry / Research experience) for appointment as
PROFESSORS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS, ASSISTANT PROFESSORS, AND FACULTY OF PRACTICE (Who will be responsible for effective teaching, scholarly pursuits, mentoring students, providing concurrent learning experience and ensuring institution well being) in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, English, Environmental Science, CSE / AIML / ECE / ECSE / MBA / MCA.
The candidates who have retired from institutions of eminence, reputed industries, and national / global Scientific Research Labs (active and self-driven with less than 70 years of age) are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to PhD candidate with teaching, industry and / or research experience.

7th PAY COMMISSION SCALES
are offered to the deserving candidates and higher start may be considered for accomplished candidates with proven track record

NON-TEACHING
The institute is also inviting applications from the candidates with relevant qualification and experience for recruitment for the position of Librarian, Sports director, accountants, HR Executive, Admission Managers, Instructors, Drivers, Attenders, and System Admins. Salary shall Commensurate with Qualification, Experience and IT Skills.

Interested candidates can mail their resumes to : **careers@cmnit.org** mentioning the "position applied for" in the subject line within 10 days from the date of advertisement

Ref: TES/CMNIT/HR/2025-26/002

Sri C.N. Shashikiran, Secretary, Thirupathi Education Society (R)

ARVIND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL & PU COLLEGE
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REQUIRES DEDICATED & PASSIONATE PROFESSIONALS WITH GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS
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Experienced in ICSE, CBSE, STATE syllabus (Preferably Karnataka residents only)
Send your resume with recent passport size photo to airsjobs@gmail.com within 5 days

SESHADRIPURAM INSTITUTIONS
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Require
LECTURERS
for Pre-University Colleges at Bengaluru
• PHYSICS • CHEMISTRY • STATISTICS • ENGLISH • COMPUTER SCIENCE
Eligibility: Master's Degree in the relevant subject with at least 55% marks in the aggregate and at least two years teaching experience.
ACCOUNTANT
B.Com with at least 2 years experience with Computer knowledge and Tally.
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
on Saturday the 2nd May 2026 @ 9.30 a.m.
Venue: Seshadripuram Educational Trust, 27, Nagappa Street, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020.
Eligible candidates should bring handwritten application along with resume, photos & copies of testimonials at the time of Interview
N. R. Pandith Aradhya President
Dr. Wooday P. Krishna Honorary General Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, **Hari Subramanian Iyer,** S/o Subramanian Devaraja Iyer, aged 61 years, residing at "BLESSINGS", 138/I 1st Main Road, Viveknagar, Bengaluru-560 047, Karnataka, do hereby give public notice of the following:
That my name was incorrectly recorded as HARINARAYAN S., instead of my then-legal name HARINARAYANAN S., in the Sale Deed dated November 3, 1995, registered as Document No. 2836/95-96 at the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore Urban, Karnataka.
That I have subsequently changed my registered name from HARINARAYANAN S. to HARI SUBRAMANIAN IYER for all purposes.
I solemnly affirm that HARINARAYAN S., HARI NARAYANAN S., and HARI SUBRAMANIAN IYER all refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself.
This declaration is made pursuant to the Affidavit dated January 14, 2026, sworn before the Notary Public Sumithra N., Advocate & Notary, Government of India (Reg. No. 12329), at Bangalore.

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Study: Clear land regularisation applications of SC/STs in 1 year

'54% of families losing land applied for regrant in 3 dists'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Close to 24% of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes families who were granted Inam land have lost their land and only close to 54% of them have applied for a regrant, according to a survey conducted across 3 districts – Chikkamagaluru, Tumakuru, and Raichur.

The government, in January 2022, provided a one-year deadline to the communities to apply for the regrant of the lands.

However, the survey observed that many of the SC/ST land owners were unaware of the government notification. Hence, it should provide another opportunity for these families to apply for regrant under Karnataka Village Offices Abolition Act, 1961.

Similar recommendations were suggested for Karnataka Land Grants Rules, 1969 and Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964.

Under Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964, the study said there were several applications related to regularisation of unauthorised government land under forms 50, 53 and 57, pending for disposal.

"Some of the applications filed in form 53 have been pending for decades. So, all pending applications for regularisation of unauthorised cultivation should be dealt with in a time-bound manner, preferably one year," it said.

It advocated for a taluk-wise audit of all lands granted to determine whether the share of lands granted to SCs and STs in each village and taluk has been maintained at 50% or not, as required by grant rules.

"If this is not the case (if land granted to SCs/STs is not 50%), then the proportion of lands granted to SCs and STs in future should be 75% as required by the grant rules," the study said.

In the surveyed three districts, close to 35.6% of appeals filed under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prohibition of Transfer of Certain Lands) Act, 1978, took more than five years for settlement.

"The assistant commissioners and deputy commissioners should be directed to dispose of applications and appeals under Section 5 and 5A of PTCL Act, respectively, within a period of one year, to the extent possible. This provision can be added to the Act as well as part of the comprehensive amendment mentioned above," it said.

The survey was conducted by Dr Siddharth Joshi, an independent researcher, and was presented at a state-level consultation organised by Alternative Law Forum, Bengaluru, Slum Janandolana Karnataka, Tumakuru, Samvidhana Samrakshana Vedike, Chikkamagaluru.

36% of communities are still landless

The statistics from the three districts showed that various laws related to land for SC/STs were more effective in the Malnad region (Chikkamagaluru) and the old Mysore region (Tumakuru) than the Kalyan Karnataka Region (Raichur). While close to 63.45% of SC families in Chikkamagaluru were land owners and 75.58% in Tumakuru, only close to 48.50% of families in Raichur had land of their own.

'Identify' manual scavengers left out

While 4,816 people were identified to have been involved in manual scavenging in a survey conducted between 2021 and 2023, the number dropped to zero in the survey conducted in 2024.

Pointing to such drastic change in figures, the study suggested that the government re-conduct the survey to identify those left out.

"A fresh survey should be conducted to identify all those who have been left out of previous surveys. All identified manual scavengers should be rehabilitated in a year's time. Any delay will compound the historical injustice done to them," the study said.

VITEEE 2026 begins at VIT-AP

Students at the VIT-AP University campus to appear for the VITEEE 2026 entrance exam yesterday.

The Vellore Institute of Technology Engineering Entrance Examination (VITEEE) 2026 commenced today at VIT-AP University, Amaravati, marking the beginning of one of India's most sought-after engineering entrance examinations. Conducted in a computer-based format, VITEEE serves as the gateway for admission to B.Tech programmes offered at VIT campuses in Vellore, Chennai, Amaravati and Bhopal.

Dr P Arulmozhivarman, Vice Chancellor, VIT-AP University, said the exam will be conducted across multiple centers nationwide until May 3, 2026. Candidates from 129 cities across 212 centers in India, along with participants from nine international locations - Singapore, Qatar, Muscat, Dubai, Kuwait and Al Manamah, Abu Dhabi, Malaysia and Sharjah - are appearing for the examination this year. The results are expected to be announced in second week of May 2026, and candidates can access updates on the official website vit.ac.in

Dr Jagadish Chandra, Registrar, said alongside VITEEE, other entrance examinations are also being conducted. VITEEE 2026 is being held between April 28 and May 3 while the exam for Research/M. Tech/Law/MBA is on April 28 and May 3.

Dr John Pradeep, Deputy Director (Admissions), said candidates securing ranks up to 1.50 lakh will be eligible to participate in the online counselling process for VIT-AP, scheduled to be held during May–June 2026.

Curated by DH Brandspot

If Rahul asks, Siddaramaiah will resign, says Rajanna

'Next chief minister should be a Dalit if he is replaced'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Senior Congress lawmaker K N Rajanna said Tuesday that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will "sacrifice power" if top party leader Rahul Gandhi asks him to step down.

K N Rajanna

This signals a shift in the stance of the Siddaramaiah camp, which has maintained that there would not, and should not, be any change in leadership.

"The chief minister has an open mind. He has said he would abide by the directions of the high command and Rahul Gandhi, and that everyone should cooperate," Rajanna, a Siddaramaiah loyalist, said.

"The CM's mindset is that he is ready to sacrifice power or continue in power as per Rahul Gandhi's directions. He will abide by Gandhi's decision."

Rajanna's statement is being seen as the Siddaramaiah camp's attempt to mount pressure on Rahul Gandhi to decide on the leadership dispute with Shivakumar. In political circles, Rahul is seen as amiable towards Siddaramaiah.

Rajanna, the Madhugiri MLA, also urged the high command to clear the confusion surrounding the chief minister's tenure.

"The longer the confusion continues, the more detrimental it is for the party and governance," he said.

If Siddaramaiah is replaced, the next chief minister should be a Dalit, Rajanna said. "I'm committed to the statement that there should be a Dalit CM."

Rajanna, who recently lamented that Siddaramaiah had become "helpless", reiterated his statement: "Compare Siddaramaiah as CM during 2013-18 and 2023 to now, there's a huge difference and people are talking about it."

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi and Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa, both Siddaramaiah supporters, are in Delhi. Last week, Shivakumar spent a couple of days in the national capital.

'May 15 final deadline for DKS as CM'

Ramanagara MLA Iqbal Hussain said Shivakumar will become chief minister before his birthday on May 15.

"This is the final deadline," he said. "Many lawmakers, ministers, party workers and citizens want him to be CM".

Muniyappa urges party to end uncertainty

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Senior Congress leader and Karnataka's Food and Civil Supplies Minister, K H Muniyappa met Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal on Tuesday and urged them to end the prevailing confusion over the leadership change.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Muniyappa said he requested the top leadership to clarify the issue at the earliest in the interest of both the party and the state government.

While asserting that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was doing good work, Muniyappa added that any decision regarding a change in leadership rests with the party high command.

He expressed hope that the Congress leadership would take a final decision on the matter next month.

Separately, Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa, a close confidant of Siddaramaiah, also met Kharge.

Appeal rate just 0.2% for acquittals under SC/ST atrocities Act

Study favours half-yearly work review of public prosecutors

BENGALURU, DHNS

In 2023, close to 22% of cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, have ended in an acquittal.

Of these, an appeal was filed only in 0.2% of the cases, a survey conducted across Tumkuru, Chikkamagaluru and Raichur showed.

Cases filed under SC/ST Atrocities Prevention Act

Year	No of cases	Charge sheet filed after 60 days	No of cases ending in acquittals	No of appeals against acquittals
2016	1,082	761	955	156
2017	1,793	433	983	13
2018	1,340	460	874	143
2019	1,250	359	1,097	398
2020	1,438	360	601	44
2021	1,799	466	421	0
2022	1,933	369	234	3
2023	1,896	391	426	1

Since 2016, the number of acquittal cases in which an appeal has been filed has remained below 20%.

The study, hence, recommended that the performance of public prosecutors should be reviewed in January and July every year, as required by Rule 4(2) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995.

"Monthly review of cases by the district magistrate and the officer in charge of prosecution at the district level should be conducted as required by Rule 4(4) of the Rules," the study suggested. While the law mandated that a charge sheet be filed within 60 days of the complaint under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, data showed that, in 2023, in nearly 20% of the cases, charge sheet was filed after 60 days. The disposal rate at the courts have also been low, the study noted.

The data showed that the number of atrocity cases has increased over the years. In 2016, as many as 1,082 cases were filed and this increased to 1,896 by 2023.

BJP workers protest Umar Khalid event, over 30 detained

Umar Khalid, From Page 1

Security was stepped up after the organisers — the All India Lawyers' Association for Justice (AILAJ), the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) and Bahutva Karnataka — sought protection following threats from the BJP. A BJP delegation had also met Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, seeking the cancellation of what it called an "anti-national" event.

Police secured not just the venue but also a 200m radius around it, setting up barricades on all approach roads and regulating entry. More than 200 personnel from the east and north divisions, along with four KSRP platoons and a mobile control and command centre, were deployed to prevent any untoward incidents.

Attendees, including speakers, had to pass through five layers of security—three on the road and two inside the venue. They were required to show their credentials and provide contact numbers. The last layer involved airport-style frisking as attendees were asked to pour all belongings out of their pockets.

Many attendees who arrived late were denied entry as their names were not on the registration list. Volunteers tried to facilitate access, but police did not permit it, citing security protocols.

Some attendees were directed to a first-floor room where the discussion was live-streamed. Inside the auditorium, the police allowed only volunteers to stand. Those wearing black were asked to cover up or leave, while people wearing masks had to remove them.

Plainclothesmen maintained a close watch inside the auditorium, monitoring for potential disruptions. They stayed put throughout the event and escorted speakers out as the event concluded.

The heavy security presence echoed during the discussion.

"You see a bit of that spectacle outside," Shuddhabrata Sengupta, one of the book's editors, remarked, referring to what he described as the Union government's "attempts to muzzle dissent".

Guha commended PUCL's Arvind Narrain for "coordinating with goons on one side and the police on the other," while Nair said that "we had a small glimpse of what it means to live under surveillance—being checked, body-searched, verified."

Trump claims Iran told US...

Trump, From Page 1

However, Iranian defence ministry spokesman Reza Talaei-Nik said on Tuesday that Washington "must abandon its illegal and irrational demands".

"The US is no longer in a position to dictate its policy to independent nations," he said, according to state TV.

The Trump administration seemed unlikely to accept Iran's offer to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz if the US lifts its blockade on the country.

Iran's proposal also would postpone talks on its nuclear programme, and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio appeared to rule that out. "We have to ensure that any deal that is made is one that definitively prevents them from sprinting towards a nuclear weapon," Rubio said.

Airlines warn of shutdown, seek ATF price relief

Airlines, From Page 1

"In order to survive, sustain and continue operation, we request your urgent intervention for immediate and meaningful financial support to tide over the current situation," it said.

The letter said that, in order to prevent stress on the sector, the government had limited the increase of ATF to Rs 15 per litre for domestic operations last month, but it was increased by Rs 73 per litre for international operations, which practically makes both international and domestic operations "completely unviable".

"Given the current circumstances, the OMCs decided to extend the pricing based on production cost, it will only be for the domestic airlines, with 70% of fuel still being priced on the global benchmark. The impact, if any, may be set aside by the export opportunities and international carriers...FIA requests that the crack band agreed earlier between the OMCs and airlines with the support of government, be allowed to be continued," it said.

Arguing for the reduction of VAT in key states, it said the country's largest aviation hub, Delhi, has the second-highest VAT of 25%, the highest being Tamil Nadu at 29%, while in other major aviation cities like Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Kolkata, it ranges between 16-20%. These six cities cover over 50% of airline operations within India, it said.

'Umar in jail to ensure India does not become a prison'

BENGALURU, DHNS

(From left) Writer-historian Ramachandra Guha, professor and historian Janaki Nair and actor Prakash Raj at a discussion on 'Umar Khalid and His World' at Bangalore International Centre on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/PUSKHAR V

An evening of readings and reflection centred on the book 'Umar Khalid and His World' unfolded under tight security at the Bangalore International Centre here on Tuesday.

The event featured a reading of excerpts from the book—an anthology of 337 pages comprising 64 contributors and 12 articles by Khalid, nine of them from prison — followed by a panel discussion with historian Janaki Nair, writer-historian Ramachandra Guha and actor Prakash Raj.

Compiled by Anirban Bhattacharya, Banojyotsna Lahiri and Shuddhabrata Sengupta, the book attempts to map what one speaker described as "a world that begins in a prison cell but does not end there."

The editors emphasised that the volume was not merely about Khalid's incarceration but about a broader political and moral landscape.

Raj offered an impassioned, political reading of Khalid's imprisonment. "Umar is standing and fighting for all of India," he said. "He is in jail to ensure this country does not become a prison." Raj suggested that adversity had strengthened him. "He's growing," he added.

Nair called the book "an archive of a crucial historical moment."

Nair argued that the book documents not only one individual's experience but also a wider transformation in the functioning of institutions, particularly the criminal justice system. "To be held without trial for so long is to make the process itself the punishment," she said, describing prolonged incarceration without bail as a form of "social death."

Nair traced the emergence and proliferation of terms such as 'jihad' used in public discourse as instruments of vilification of Muslims. 'What began as 'love jihad' has now expanded—to land, flood, vote, even disease. This event may well be called 'book jihad'," she said.

"We must deny majoritarian regimes a monopoly over historical wounds," she said, arguing for a plural and inclusive understanding of citizenship. She urged the audience to "build a new majority" of the oppressed.

Guha critiqued the book as a complex intellectual project, praising the editors for assembling a diverse set of voices across disciplines, ideologies and generations.

Reflecting on the material, he suggested that the volume reveals "at least eight different Umar Khalids." "Nobody owns Umar Khalid," Guha said. "Each reader will find their own."

City lets down its workers as heat rises

Summer peaks, From Page 1

Farhana covers about 650 houses in a 'high risk area', mostly slums where the poor live. "Most often, these are small houses. During my rounds, I can request someone for water, but it is difficult to seek permission to use their toilet. So, I often avoid drinking water till I return to the PHC," she said.

Over the last two years, the Asha Workers Union has given multiple representations to the government to change uniform, from synthetic to cotton clothes in summer. The union's state secretary even submitted samples of clothes that will reduce suffering of workers. "No action has been taken," she said.

Mansoor Ghouse, who segregates 2 tonnes of waste at his dry waste collection centre (DWCC) in Pattabhiramanagar, earns a living by reducing burden of the state in collecting and segregating waste. However, it comes at a cost.

"There are health complications, especially skin infections. We don't get health check-ups or other facilities from the government. Going to a government hospital means losing an entire day's work, which I cannot afford. I end up paying hefty bills in private clinics," he said.

To a question by the audience, Ghouse said only NGOs have distributed safety gloves and mask. "We cannot use the mask for more than half an hour. Not in this heat. The DWCC doesn't even have a fan, let alone toilet and other facilities. The gloves don't hold after a certain time," he said.

Lack of hydration and immediate cooling requirements will have a debilitating effect on workers like Farhana and Ghouse who are exposed to heat for long durations. Multiple studies warn lack of such facilities will lead to heat stroke besides impact on vital organs.

The testimony of Lingaraju K, a food delivery partner, showed that the state can be touchy when it comes to listening to the ordeal of those left behind.

Lingaraju spoke at length on the ordeal of delivering food in the heat and that they are not allowed to rest or use toilets at hotels, where they pick food for delivery. He said the government too has not provided any facility.

A member of the audience, however, pointed to Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act. He asked Lingaraju whether the welfare board set up under the Act was not providing facilities.

Lingaraju appeared a bit confused and answered in the negative. He said he was not aware of the association and board membership.

This was enough to prick a representative of a state institution and ask Lingaraju "not to spread misinformation".

"It was my first time on a stage and I was a little confused. We do have an association. The fact is we have not received any benefits from any board. There was no misinformation in what I said," he said.

Vinay Sarathi, who heads the gig workers union and is a member of the Gig Workers Board, said that no benefits have been rolled out. "We are yet to register workers," he said.

Daily wage worker collapses, dies while working in extreme heat

KALABURAGI, DHNS: Husenappa Madivala (50), a daily wage labourer under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), died on Monday afternoon, reportedly due to extreme heat.

Husenappa collapsed while his attendance photograph was being taken at work. He was rushed to a hospital in an ambulance, but died on the way.

He was employed in a lake development work at Rallakunta village for the last four days. He collapsed while his attendance photograph was being taken for attendance after work.

Husenappa Madiwal

The Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangh taluk unit president Rangappa Yapaladinni said officials had failed to arrange drinking water supply and shade at the workplace as per rules.

Husenappa, who was working in 44 degrees Celsius temperature, died due to low blood pressure, he added.

"The district administration has advised people not to leave their houses in the afternoon. But the Zilla Panchayat officials are not properly monitoring the shade and water supply at MGNREGA scheme worksite," he charged.

The deceased labourer's family members demanded compensation from the government for his death. They cremated his body on Tuesday without allowing a postmortem.

BENGAL BATTLE: Mamata's biggest strength — and hindrance — is party's grassroots penetration

Trinamool banks on Didi, doles & demography

DH ILLUSTRATION: SAJITH KUMAR

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Covering the Bihar polls last year, I landed at Bagdogra airport and travelled westwards towards Patna — a trip in sharp contrast to the experiences on the road to Kolkata for the West Bengal polls.

In Bihar, the state, the people and the political institutions operate in silos, with the bureaucracy acting as the nodal link between them. Political mobilisation is defined by the socio-economic re-stratification engendered by the Mandal rupture. Perceived caste interests, kinship and apprehensions of the 'other' influence voter choices.

In West Bengal, local panchayats — dominated by the party in power — connect the state and its subjects by regulating the flow of largesse. It's a system initiated and perfected by the Left during its three decades of rule.

WEST BENGAL Assembly Poll

When Mamata Banerjee took over as chief minister in 2011, she did not tinker with the mechanisms. Party secretaries were replaced by TMC loyalists. In some cases, only party affiliations changed while the managers remained the same.

As she seeks another term, Mamata's biggest strength — and her Achilles' heel — is the TMC's grassroots penetration, marshalled by sectoral chiefs.

Seema (name changed), who runs a small roadside eatery near Reva Basti in Alipurduar's Kalchini block, says, "I get Rs 1,700 in my account every month. Did will come back, you just see."

Opinion among her customers varies. Sudha and Mani, stopping by with their children for afternoon snacks, remain non-committal. A couple of daily tea garden labourers, who received land pattas and one-time cash support to construct a house, ask when the proposed metalling of the road to their village will be taken up.

The impact of doles is tapering off, though their sedimentary effect remains. For some beneficiaries, Rs 1,700 in hand is better than Rs 3,000 in the bush.

The electoral return on cash handouts is being eroded by two factors. First, a section of women and youth feel that doles cannot sustain them through the rest of their lives. Second, pilferage in the execution of schemes has hurt many beneficiaries.

More than Mamata, people blame local fiefs and leaders for corruption.

It is understandable that the TMC has sought to blunt local anti-incumbency by building an overarching campaign around its leader — the ubiquitous Didi — appealing to people to vote for her rather than the candidates. The image of the 71-year-old lone ranger holding out against the BJP's determined onslaught is a frame the party has tried to recreate for this campaign.

Despite headwinds, the share of beneficiary votes supplemented by Mamata's Bangla sub-nationalism will determine the ruling party's tally.

The TMC's biggest advantage is Bengal's demography. The state, with over 30% minority population, gives Mamata's party a handsome head-start over its rivals. Fears over citizenship triggered by SIR deletions seem to have further consolidated minorities in the state.

BJP's chances

Since Modi's ascension in national politics, the BJP views this as its best chance to gain power in West Bengal.

The party's performance in Muslim-dominated seats, which number between 100 and 115, hinges on a division in Muslim votes.

An SIR-triggered strong minority consolidation limits the BJP's catchment area to 70% of the voters. If even 10% of this bloc — irrespective of party affiliation — is ideologically not aligned to the BJP, the votershed for the saffron outfit shrinks to 63%.

So, to win Bengal, the BJP must secure 70% or more Hindu votes. That is possible if the state is witnessing religious polarisation at the grassroots.

It's Singham vs Pushpa ahead of final phase

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

A Bollywood-style drama — with 'Singham' from Uttar Pradesh and 'Pushpa' from South 24 Parganas as main characters — unfolded in West Bengal just before the final phase of the Assembly elections.

IPS officer Ajay Pal Sharma — whom BJP's Amit Malviya described as 'Singham', after the Bollywood movie, for sending out a warning to TMC candidate Jahangir Khan — faced the wrath of the ruling party after he threatened Khan's family.

In retaliation, Khan, who is TMC's candidate in Falta in South 24 Parganas, challenged him by saying, "if he is 'Singham', I am 'Pushpa'", alluding to the Telugu-language blockbuster.

Sharma, who is known to be a tough cop, is posted as an ACP in Prayagraj. He has been appointed by the Election Commission as a police observer in West Bengal.

A video posted by Malviya showed Sharma asking Khan's family members to tell the candidate that he and his supporters must stop intimidating voters. He warned Khan's family of the consequences if such intimidation continued.

Khan is known to be a close aide of Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee.

"He wasted no time in setting the tone, firmly reading the riot act to the family members of Abhishek Banerjee's close aide, Jahangir Khan. The message is loud and clear: 'the era of intimidation and impunity is over, and law and order will prevail, and those attempting to influence the electoral process will be held accountable'," Malviya wrote on X, and described the police officer as "Singham".

The TMC alleged that Sharma overstepped his mandate as a police observer.

When Sharma went back to the neighbourhood on Tuesday, TMC supporters staged a protest against him and blocked some of the vehicles in his convoy.

Meanwhile, Khan on Tuesday lashed out at the IPS officer, saying, "This is Bengal; if he is 'Singham', I am 'Pushpa'. No amount of threat or coercion by the BJP-appointed police officials from Uttar Pradesh will be allowed in Falta."

Mahua Moitra, TMC's Lok Sabha MP, posted an old video showing a man dancing with women. She tagged Sharma with the post and wrote: "Good to see you enjoying yourself... Hope your policing skills are better than your dancing skills."

When a lawyer verbally prayed before Justice Krishna Rao in the Calcutta High Court for an order restraining Sharma, alleging that he violated the model code of conduct, Justice Rao said he would refrain from passing any order concerning officials engaged in poll duty until April 29, when the final phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections will be held.

The EC ordered the removal of Falta's Block Development Officer, Sourav Hazra, for allegedly not cooperating with Sharma.

IPS officer Ajay Pal Sharma has been deployed by the EC in the South 24 Parganas district as an observer. (VIDEO GRAB)

Security personnel escort polling officials from a distribution centre on the eve of the second and final phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections, in Kolkata, on Tuesday. PTI

SUVENDU ADHIKARI
BJP leader

"More than 700 such artificial fingers have been arranged. This is an attempt to manipulate the election. We will not allow such practices.

ARUP CHAKRABORTY
TMC spokesperson

"Is something like that possible in any democracy? Such things are neither possible nor practised. These are baseless allegations, and there is nothing to respond to.

TVK chief Vijay visits Arulmigu Subramania Swamy temple to offer prayers in Tiruchendur on Tuesday. PTI

Vijay to meet candidates to plan counting day strategy

CHENNAI, DHNS: Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) chief C Joseph Vijay has convened a meeting of his party candidates who contested the Assembly elections on April 30 to discuss the strategy to be adopted on May 4, when the counting of votes will take place. The meeting comes amid reports from the ground that the fledgling party may have performed well in urban areas and better than expected in rural Tamil Nadu.

Tuesday saw Vijay, clad in a silk shirt and dhoti, taking part in the special Vishwaroopa darshan at the famous Sri Subramania Swamy Temple in Tiruchendur, 650 km from here. He was accorded a warm welcome by temple authorities who presented him with a Vel, the sacred weapon of Lord Murugan.

Sources in the TVK told *DH* that Vijay will meet all candidates who contested the April 23 Assembly elections and elicit feedback from them on the elections.

Kerala CM race: IUML leader Kunhalikutty emerges as pick

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Amidst the intense lobbying within the Congress in Kerala for the chief minister's post ahead of the election results, a noted filmmaker and a Muslim outfit have proposed senior Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader P K Kunhalikutty's name for it.

Filmmaker Omar Lulu said the Congress should give due consideration to the IUML and other coalition partners that stood with it despite the national party not being in power either at the Centre or in the state for the last 10 years.

"Offering the CM's post to Kunhalikutty would be a chance for the Congress to show gratitude to the IUML for remaining firmly with it," he said in a social media post on Monday.

Meanwhile, Muslim organisation Sunni Mahal Federation's leaders have also said that they wish to see Kuhalikutty as the next CM.

Cong demands all-party meet on women's quota

NEW DELHI, DHNS: With the election campaign for the Assembly elections over, Congress on Tuesday renewed its demand for an all-party meeting to discuss the early implementation of 33% women's quota within the existing 543 Lok Sabha seats from 2029 elections.

The party said it was now time for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make amends for his "sins of using India's women" to drive through his "personal political agenda".

Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said now that poll campaign is over and Modi's "mischievous move to ram through a diabolical delimitation" of the Lok Sabha has "failed miserably", it is time for him to do what the Opposition has been demanding since mid-March 2026.

Dynastic parties fear women power: PM

Says women's quota is important objective to achieve

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves at supporters upon his arrival to address a public meeting for women in Varanasi on Tuesday. AFP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said some dynastic parties did not want reservation for women as they were fearful of women power.

"As a prime minister, I have to achieve an important objective, and for that, I need your (women) blessings... the objective is to implement reservation for women in Lok Sabha and assemblies," Modi said while addressing a 'Jan Akrosh Mahila Sammelan' in his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi.

Modi, who arrived on a two-day visit to Varanasi, said he had tried to implement the women's quota but couldn't succeed because of the opposition.

"But I assure you that I shall leave no stone unturned in getting your right to reservation implemented," he added.

Emphasising that the country would be stronger with women empowerment, Modi said some dynastic parties feared women power and did not want women to become members of Parliament.

"These parties fear that their traditional politics will be finished if a large number of women make it to the politics," he added.

He said that SP, Congress and TMC had cheated women.

The prime minister earlier launched several development projects worth over Rs 6,332 crore. He also flagged off two Amrit Bharat trains from Varanasi to Pune and Ayodhya to Mumbai.

Govt committed to 'Act East, Act Fast': Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said his government was not only committed to its 'Act East' policy but was resolved to 'Act Fast' for the eight Northeastern states, PTI reports from Gangtok.

Addressing an event to mark the conclusion of the year-long celebrations of the golden jubilee of Sikkim's statehood, he said organic foods are being given priority now, and the states of the region have become "big centres of this futuristic growth". The PM also referred to the eight states as 'Ashta Lakshmi', the eight forms of the goddess of wealth.

He launched 30 development projects valued at Rs 4,018 crore in Sikkim.

BJP gears up for UP polls next year

NEW DELHI, DHNS

After Assam and West Bengal, BJP has now set its sights on the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, due early next year.

From inaugurating developmental projects, meeting women electorate to visiting places of worship, the itinerary for the party's leaders are already set.

Prime minister Modi is on a two-day visit to the state. He will participate in a Mahila Sammelan in Varanasi on Wednesday. BJP president Nitin Nabin, too, will participate in the meeting. He offered prayers at Kashi Vishwanath Mandir alongside UP CM Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday.

Considered the big wrestle before the Lok Sabha polls, the UP elections are a critical litmus test, both for the BJP as well as Nabin. The prime minister, who was actively participating in Bengal, will spend two days in his constituency.

A senior BJP leader said BJP's election machinery never stops. "... UP heads to the polls next year, and it is a tough election."

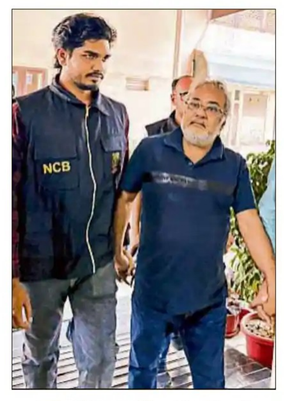
Another local leader said the state unit has started working towards the Assembly elections immediately after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

In that election, BJP received a drubbing, with its tally falling from 70 in 2019 to 33.

'Carefully crafted'

Another state unit leader of the BJP said Modi's Mahila Sanmelan event has been carefully crafted.

"One usually sees that the Prime Minister has a programme on voting day. So when Bengal goes to vote, women there could be inspired by the PM on television screens," the BJP leader said.


The Narcotics Control Bureau takes the custody of international drug trafficker Mohammed Salim Dola after he was brought back to India from Turkiye. PTI

States, UTs get heatwave advisories to protect workers, labourers

SHEMIN JOY & AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A Jaipur Smart City Ltd sprinkler truck sprays water on a hot summer day near Hawa Mahal in Jaipur. PTI

Employers should reschedule working hours, ensure cooling of workplaces, and make provision for emergency ice packs and heat illness prevention material, the Ministry of Labour and Employment said in an advisory sent to states on Tuesday on the steps to be taken in the wake of the heat wave in the country.

Immediate preventive and mitigation measures should be taken to safeguard workers and labourers from the adverse effects of rising temperatures and heatwave conditions across the country, it said in a communication to the chief secretaries and administrators of states and union territories (UTs).

The measures include allowing rescheduling of working hours for employees and workers in different sectors, ensuring adequate drinking water facilities, making provision for rest areas, and cooling of workplaces.

Coordinating with the Health Department to ensure regular health checkups of the workers is also among the measures suggested.

"Factory and mine managements have also been advised to allow greater flexibility to workers, including slowing the pace of work during periods of extreme heat, assigning two-person crews where continuous work is unavoidable, providing rest areas, and ensuring sufficient ventilation and cooling arrangements," the ministry said.

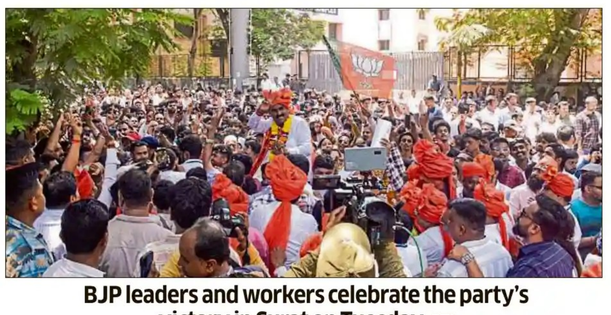
NHAI guidelines

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has also asked contractors, concessionaires, and toll operators to implement staggered working hours and other safety measures to protect workers from the ongoing heatwave and above-normal summer temperatures.

According to the guidelines issued on Tuesday, outdoor work on highways should be minimised during peak heat hours (12 pm to 4 pm) through optimised shifts and rotational rosters.

BJP sweeps Guj local body polls, wins all corporations

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS


BJP leaders and workers celebrate the party's victory in Surat on Tuesday. PTI

MASSIVE VICTORY

- Crucial mandate ahead of 2027 Assembly elections
- Modi hails 'sweeping mandate'
- Congress reduced to six municipal bodies
- AAP claims second place with 366 seats

The BJP on Tuesday swept the local body elections in Gujarat, winning all 15 municipal corporations and dominating municipalities, district and taluka panchayats, while decimating the Congress and the AAP.

The results come a year ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, when grassroots organisational strength will be crucial for parties as it sets the tone for the high-stakes electoral battle.

The ruling party won all 15 municipal corporations, continuing its dominance in urban pockets, and decimated the Congress and AAP in these centres. The biggest setback for the AAP was its loss in Surat, where it secured only four seats compared to 27 in the previous election, when it had first found a foothold in the state's electoral history.

Similarly, the BJP won 78 of 84 municipal bodies, while the Congress managed just six. The BJP also recorded a historic victory by winning 33 of 34 district panchayats, and swept 253 of 260 taluka panchayats, with the Congress taking seven and one going to the AAP.

In a post on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi applauded the party workers at the grassroots."

The AAP claimed it stood second in the election, securing 366 seats compared to 261 for the Congress.

AAP's state president Isudan Gadhvi said the party won approximately 300 seats in taluka panchayats, 44 in district panchayats, 18 in municipalities, and six in municipal corporations.

In a press release, Gadhvi described the result in Surat as "shocking", alleging that "amid BJP's authoritarianism, hooliganism, misinformation campaigns, jailing of many workers and filing of FIRs, the candidates proved to be fighters for the people of Gujarat".

While the Congress campaign remained largely predictable, the AAP had been looking to improve its performance. Arvind Kejriwal's party was widely expected to emerge as a strong opposition force but suffered setbacks at crucial junctures.

One of the biggest blows came a day before polling in Gujarat, when seven of its Rajya Sabha MPs—including Raghav Chadha and Sandeep Pathak—resigned and announced their decision to join the BJP.

Nilgiris fire put out after days

CHENNAI, DHNS: After several days and despite challenges, firefighters on Tuesday doused the fire that raged through the forest of the picturesque Nilgiris. The fire broke out on April 15.

"The fire has been completely doused. But firefighters and rescue personnel are still in the area as a precautionary measure," a source in district administration said. The operations became challenging due to strong winds. The Sulur Air Force Station deployed two IAF MI-17 V5 helicopters to douse the fire.

SC stresses need for structure in management of religious institutions

Warns against 'anarchy', says norms must for orderly functioning

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that the right to manage a religious institution cannot imply the absence of structure, and that modalities and norms must be devised for its functioning.

A nine-judge Constitution bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said that there cannot be anarchy, as the court took up petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places, including the Sabarimala Temple in Kerala, and on the ambit and scope of religious freedom practised by multiple faiths.

The bench also comprised Justices BV Nagarathna, MM Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi.

Advocate Nizam Pasha, appearing for Peerzada Syed Altamash Nizami — a direct ancestral descendant in the Chishti Nizami lineage associated with the dargah of Hazrat Khwaja Nizamuddin Aulia — submitted that a dargah is a place where a saint is buried. "Within Islam, there are differing views regarding the status of saints after death, but in the Sufi system of belief, deep reverence is attached to the place where a saint is interred," Pasha said.

DISCRIMINATION

- Court takes up petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places, including Sabarimala Temple
- Says regulation is necessary, but at the same time, it cannot transgress constitutional limitations

He contended that the right to regulate entry into a religious institution is part of its management.

At this juncture, Justice Amanullah said that the right to manage cannot imply the absence of structure, and that modalities must be devised for everything.

"There cannot be anarchy. Take a dargah or a temple. There will be elements associated with the institution, the manner of worship, the sequence in which things are done. Somebody has to regulate that," the bench said.

"It cannot be that everyone says, 'I will do whatever I want,' or that the gates remain open at all times without control. The question is: who is the body that manages? That is where protection comes in, because regulation is necessary. At the same time, it cannot transgress constitutional limitations. There cannot be discrimination against broad constitutional parameters," Justice Amanullah said, adding that every institution must have norms and these cannot be individually determined.

Roads cannot be blocked in name of religious activities, govt can interfere: SC

NEW DELHI, PTI: Commenting that roads cannot be blocked in the name of religious activities, the Supreme Court on Tuesday said a denomination has the autonomy in the manner of worship and the court cannot sit in judgment over its religious affairs, but if a secular activity is being affected, the government can interfere with its rights.

The observation of a nine-judge Constitution bench came while hearing petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places and on the ambit and scope of the religious freedom practised by multiple faiths.

Advocate Akshay Nagarajan, representing the Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha in the court, submitted that the government cannot interfere with a religious denomination's rights by citing grounds under Article 25(2)(a).

Article 25(2)(a) empowers the State to regulate or restrict any economic, financial, political or other secular activity associated with religious practices. Nagarajan said the protection under Article 25 is not confined merely to matters of religious belief and extends equally to outward manifestations of faith, including rituals, observances, ceremonies and practices associated with the worship of a particular deity.

The submissions led Justice BV Nagarathna to observe that the State can step in if a secular activity is affected by religious activities. "Suppose there is a temple, they want to have an annual festival, like you have the annual cart or chariot festival. You cannot block all the roads around the temple. That has nothing to do with religion. You do your religious activity, but not by blocking the roads. The State can always step in to regulate," she said.

CCTVs in police stations: SC orders Centre, state meeting

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed for the Central and state governments to hold a meeting on May 6 to deliberate on the utilisation of funds by states for the installation of CCTV cameras in police stations across the country.

A bench asked senior advocate Siddhartha Dave, acting as an amicus curiae in a suo motu matter concerning the lack of functional CCTV cameras in police stations, to hold a meeting on May 6 with the Centre and all states and union territories (UTs).

"We are of the view that a meeting be convened by the amicus, as done earlier, in which the home secretary of the central government or his nominee not below the rank of joint or additional secretary and the home secretary of states/UTs will participate," the bench said.

Centre dismisses rumours of imminent fuel price hike

Says no plan to raise rates after Assembly polls

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Stable supply

- **Centre rules out** hike in petrol, diesel after Bengal polls
- **Assures adequate** inventories of all fuels
- **Urges people** to avoid rumours, rely on official sources
- **Appeals to public** to avoid panic buying

Dismissing widespread speculation of an imminent hike in petrol and diesel prices after polling concludes in West Bengal on April 29, the Centre on Tuesday said it has no plans to raise fuel rates.

"There is no proposal to increase petrol and diesel prices," Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, told reporters during a briefing on the fallout of developments in West Asia.

Sharma was responding to questions about whether retail fuel prices would be revised once polling in the Assembly elections ends on Wednesday.

She also addressed reports of panic buying triggered by rumours of a price rise, particularly in parts of Andhra Pradesh, where more than 400 petrol pumps reportedly ran dry on Sunday.

"We have seen panic buying in some places. We are in continuous contact with state governments... All retail outlets are being monitored and supplies are being prioritised so that stock availability is ensured and there are no dry-outs," Sharma said.

RAHUL GANDHI
Congress leader

"Election relief over, inflation's heat is on its way! After April 29th, watch out - petrol, diesel, everything will get expensive. When (crude) oil was cheap, the Modi government pocketed the profits. Now that it's expensive, it'll dump the burden on you. A government that loots when it's cheap - leaving the public to bear the brunt of inflation.

According to the Petroleum Ministry, some outlets witnessed a sudden surge in demand by as much as 30-33% due to the rumours. The government emphasised that the country has adequate inventories of all fuels, including petrol, diesel, LPG and aviation turbine fuel, to meet normal demand.

"We have enough supplies of LPG, petrol and diesel. Prices are stable and there has been no increase in rates," Sharma added. "I urge everyone: please don't believe rumours. Avoid panic buying and rely on official sources for information," she said.

Retail petrol and diesel prices have remained unchanged for a record four years — since early April 2022 — despite significant volatility in global crude oil prices. Crude oil, which averaged around $70 per barrel last year, has surged to over $114 per barrel this month amid tensions in West Asia.

Officials have acknowledged that state-run fuel retailers are currently incurring substantial losses — estimated at around Rs 20 per litre on petrol and nearly Rs 100 per litre on diesel — as they continue to sell fuel below cost.

Some estimates suggest daily losses for oil marketing companies could be as high as Rs 2,400 crore. Despite these mounting losses, the government has maintained that there is currently no plan to revise pump prices.

SC: Neighbourhood schools must admit state-allotted students under RTE Act

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Supreme Court said denial of admissions under RTE undermines the fundamental right to education guaranteed under Article 21A of the Constitution.

Observing that admission into pre-primary class must be a "national mission", the Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, "neighbourhood schools" are constitutionally and statutorily obligated to admit students allotted by the state government without any delay.

Reiterating the obligation of private unaided neighbourhood schools to admit students allotted under the RTE framework without delay, a bench of justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe said that denial of such admissions undermines the fundamental right to education guaranteed under Article 21A of the Constitution.

"The obligation of a 'neighbourhood school' to admit children belonging to weaker and disadvantaged sections of our society, to the extent of 25% of the class strength, under Section 12 of the RTE Act, 2009 has the extraordinary capacity to transform the social structure of our society," the verdict said.

The SC said earnest implementation can truly be transformative and it is not only a step towards educating young India, but also a substantive measure in securing the preambular objective of 'equality of status'.

"The constitutional declaration of the right under Article 21A, followed by the statutory mandate under Section 3 of the Act for free and compulsory elementary education can be realised only with effective implementation of the provisions of the Act. "Ensuring admission of such students must be a national mission and an obligation of the appropriate government and the local authority. Equally, courts, be it constitutional or civil, must walk that extra mile to provide easy access and efficient relief to parents who complain of denial of the right," Justice Narasimha, who authored the verdict, said.

The bench dismissed the appeal filed by Lucknow Public School, Eldico, which had challenged a HC order directing it to admit a student from a weaker section of society.

The bench held once a list is prepared and forwarded by the state, the school has no option but to grant admission. "There is no gainsaying in stating that the right to education, a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution, will remain an empty promise if the mandate of the RTE Act, 2009 is not worked out in its letter and spirit."

Taking the opportunity, the verdict said "this is yet another occasion for us to reiterate the constitutional and statutory obligation of a 'neighbourhood school' to give admission to students forwarded by the government without any delay."

AIIMS expert review on brain death tests sought

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday indicated that it would ask the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to constitute a committee to examine the suggestions given by a petitioner relating to the procedure of declaring a patient brain dead.

A bench was hearing a plea challenging a June 2017 order of the Kerala HC.

The petitioner had moved the HC, highlighting the alleged malpractice in declaring a patient to be brain dead.

During the hearing, the petitioner, who appeared in person, referred to the process of certifying a patient to be brain dead. "There must be verifiable evidence of a patient being brain dead," the petitioner told the SC.

Rlys to replace LPG with PNG in running rooms

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Railway Ministry has directed all zonal railways to replace LPG cylinders with Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections in running rooms for loco pilots within six months.

Citing logistical challenges and heavy dependence on West Asia amid the ongoing crisis in the region, the Ministry stated that PNG would ensure a reliable and uninterrupted gas supply.

No registration of sleeper buses without fire safety inspection

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Alarmed by a series of fire incidents involving sleeper buses, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday warned that new sleeper coach buses would not be registered without mandatory physical and video inspection of fire detection systems and emergency exits.

"The safety of passengers in buses is very, very important," said Gadkari at the Busworld India Conclave 2026 here. "Without physical and video inspection of fire detection systems, emergency exits with hammers, emergency lighting, and other safety features, new sleeper coach buses will not get registered."

Insisting that the government was not against traditional bus body builders, he said passenger safety could not be compromised.

NITIN GADKARI
Union Minister

"Without physical and video inspection of fire detection systems, emergency exits with hammers, emergency lighting, and new sleeper coach buses will not get registered.

Modernise facilities

Gadkari also urged manufacturers to modernise their facilities and adopt new technologies to meet the required safety standards.

The revised Bus Body Code (AIS-052), which came into effect from September 1, 2025, is a mandatory standard that specifies safety, structural, and design requirements for all bus bodies built in the country.

According to the Bus Body Code, only automobile companies or Central government-accredited facilities are allowed to manufacture sleeper coach buses.

According to the new safety regime, road transport authorities will check each sleeper-coach bus, with the results uploaded on the Vaahan portal.

The move comes after several fire accidents in sleeper coaches highlighted critical safety lapses, including flammable interiors, inadequate emergency exits, and a lack of proper fire-safety equipment.

FORTIFYING FORCES

India set to receive 4th S-400 missile system early next month

NEW DELHI, PTI

India is expected to receive the fourth unit of the S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile system from Russia in the first part of next month.

It is expected to further enhance the Indian Air Force (IAF)'s air defence mechanism, sources in the security establishment said on Tuesday.

In October 2018, India signed a $5-billion deal with Russia to procure five units of the missile systems. Three of them have already been delivered.

The sources said the fifth unit of the missile would be delivered by November under an updated timeline for supplying the weapon system.

The S-400 missile systems played a crucial role during Operation Sindoor.

Last month, New Delhi cleared the procurement of a fresh batch of five S-400 missile systems from Russia, which would take the total number to 10.

It is learnt that the fourth unit of the missile system has already been shipped, and is expected to reach India in the next few days.

India had signed the deal for the procurement of the S-400 missiles over seven years ago, notwithstanding a warning from the US that going ahead with the contract might invite US sanctions under the provisions of Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

The sources said India was not expecting any possible hindrance from US sanctions as the new procurement will be a "follow-on" of the previous order.

The missile systems were used extensively by the IAF during the May 7-10 military conflict with Pakistan.

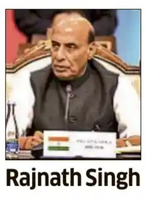
Weeks after the conflict, a proposal was made to procure another batch of the S-400 missiles.

Russia has already trained a group of Indian personnel to operate the missile systems.

The S-400 is known as Russia's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile defence system.

Rajnath calls for united front against terrorism at SCO meet

NEW DELHI, PTI: Operation Sindoor demonstrated India's firm resolve that "terror epicentres" are no longer immune to "justifiable punishment", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday, in remarks widely seen as a warning to Pakistan over cross-border terrorism.



Rajnath Singh

In an address at a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Bishkek, Singh also called on the influential grouping not to lose sight of "state-sponsored" cross-border terrorism and that there should not be any place for any "double standards" in combating the menace.

Delving into ongoing conflicts and geopolitical upheavals, Singh said that the "real test of power" is not in using it against the poor and the weak but in using it in the interest of those who are unable to defend themselves.

There is a need to focus on global consensus where "co-existence, co-habitation and compassion take precedence over chaos, competition and conflict", he said.

"We must not lose sight of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism, which attacks the very sovereignty of a nation-state. There is no place for any double standards, and SCO should not hesitate in seeking appropriate action against those who abet, shelter and provide safe havens to terrorists," he said.

Singh strongly pitched for a unified front to tackle the "evils" of terrorism, separatism and extremism.

"By tackling terrorism and separatism without exception, we can transform regional security from a challenge into a cornerstone for peace and prosperity," he said in the presence of defence ministers from China, Russia and other members of the grouping.

Meets Chinese counterpart

Rajnath met his Chinese counterpart, Admiral Dong Jun, in Bishkek to discuss maintaining peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and broader regional security concerns, including the West Asia crisis.

The meeting came as New Delhi and Beijing move to repair their frosty relations. "It was a pleasure to interact with the Defence Minister of China, Admiral Dong Jun, during the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Bishkek," Singh said.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570023
ಸಂ./ಕಾಅ/ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿ/ಮೈ/ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್/ಸ.ಇಂ/ಕಿ.ಇಂ.
ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ.: 01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.04.2026
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ ರೀತ್ಯಾ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:– ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಳೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 5054 ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ KW-4 ರೀತ್ಯಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ದಿ: 27.04.2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿ: 19.05.2026 ರವರೆಗೆ ಸಂಜೆ 16.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ/ವಿಚಾರಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿ: 18.05.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 20.05.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಂತೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 01. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು/ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಅಂಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕೋಣಗಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕಳ್ಳೀಪುರ, ಕೇತುಪುರ, ಗಾಣಿಗನಕೊಪ್ಪಲು, ಗುಡ್ಡದಕೊಪ್ಪಲು, ಕರಿಹುರಳಿಕೊಪ್ಪಲು, ಮೆಣಸಿಕ್ಯಾತನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ದೊಡ್ಡಮುಲಗೂಡು, ಕಾಡುಕೊತ್ತನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಹನುಮನಾಳು ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಬೀದಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (Indent No.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25492) ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): 205.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೊಬಲಗು (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): 170.90 ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): 2,56,500.00 ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ: 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು.
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.02. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು/ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಚಿಕ್ಕಬೂಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಎಂ.ಕೆಬ್ಬೆಹುಂಡಿ, ಮುಸುವಿನಕೊಪ್ಪಲು, ಕೈಯಂಬಳ್ಳಿ, ಬೊಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಸೋಸಲೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಾಗಿಲು, ಹೊರಳಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಎಸ್.ದೊಡ್ಡಮರ, ಕೆಂಪನಪುರ, ಎಸ್.ಕೆಬ್ಬೆಹುಂಡಿ, ಕೊಳತ್ತೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಚಿದರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಬೀದಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (Indent No.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25489) ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): 230.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೊಬಲಗು (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): 193.28 ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): 2,90,000.00 ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ: 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು.
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.03. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು/ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕರೋಹಟ್ಟಿ, ವಾಟಾಳು, ವಾಟಾಳುಪುರ, ಸುಜ್ಜಲೂರು, ಆದಿಬೆಟ್ಟಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಮೂಗೂರು, ಮಾಡ್ರಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಮಾಪಿನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಮಾದಾಪುರ, ಜಾಲಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಹೆಮ್ಮಿಗೆ, ಟಿ.ಮೇಗಡಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಹೊಸಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಚೌಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಬೀದಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (Indent No.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25490) ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): 250.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೊಬಲಗು (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): 210.38 ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): 3,16,000.00 ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ: 2ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು.
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.04. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು/ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮಾದೇಗೌಡನಹುಂಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಗರ್ಗೇಶ್ವರಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದವರೆಗೆ ಮಾರ್ಗ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಬರುವ ಮಾದೇಗೌಡನಹುಂಡಿ, ಪಟ್ಟೆಹುಂಡಿ, ರಂಗಸಮುದ್ರ, ಕುಪ್ಯ, ತುಂಬಲ, ನಿಂಗೇಗೌಡನಹುಂಡಿ, ಹಳೆಕೆಂಪಯ್ಯನಹೊಂಡಿ, ಗರ್ಗೇಶ್ವರಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪರಿಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬಿಲಿಗೆರೆಹುಂಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಆಲಸ್ತಿಕಟ್ಟೆಹುಂಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪರಿಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಸಿ ಚರಂಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಿಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25617) ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): 250.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೊಬಲಗು (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): 209.11 ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): 3,14,000.00 ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ: 2ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು.
ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (e-procurement portal) ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕುವೆಂಪುನಗರ, ಮೈಸೂರು (ಫೋನ್ ನಂ.0821–2560853) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಿ.ಇಂ. 8971599285
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು
DIPR/DDMYS/118/KSMCA/102/2026-27

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Defection and the ruse of idealism

Seven of the 10 Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MPs in the Rajya Sabha have joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), causing a major setback to the AAP. Their move to join the BJP is not entirely surprising, considering the BJP has been accepting deserters from other parties, individually and in groups. This crossover is led by Raghav Chadha, who was the AAP's deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha till recently; the other breakaway leaders include Sandeep Pathak and Ashok Mittal. Ironically, Mittal had replaced Chadha when the party recently removed the latter from his Rajya Sabha position. Chadha was seen as having strained relations with the party leadership, which is now completely identified with Arvind Kejriwal. He was not seen with Kejriwal and the other leaders when they fought the Delhi excise policy case, in courts and outside. While Chadha had distanced himself from the party on all forums, and his exit does not come as a surprise, the mass merger was unexpected.

Chadha, while justifying his action, noted that the AAP has abandoned its foundational ideals. He and the other dissidents claimed that the party was giving precedence to "personal benefits" over public service. But this merger raises questions about their motives, the "foundational" values of the AAP, and the BJP's role in the matter. Chadha's revolt has been in the making, and his embrace with the BJP cannot be seen as an instinctive call. Considering how critical he has been of the BJP in the past, the move shows how brittle his own commitment to these values is. For the BJP, this is familiar territory. It has consistently welcomed leaders from other parties without discrimination and with a clear objective to weaken or break the opposition. The long-term impact of this strategy, both on the party and the politics of our time, is yet to be seen.

The AAP MPs' exodus also exposes a party grappling with ideological fragility and internal dissent

The AAP may be facing an existential crisis, as reports emerge on other possible desertions. The party, which was born out of an anti-corruption movement against the then UPA government, presented itself as a moral alternative. Its ideological positions have always been hazy, and on many issues are aligned with the BJP's. Increasingly personality-driven, the party has seen a steady exodus of leaders, including some of its founder members. It has seen a quick rise over a short period of time, but will now have to step up damage control, especially with Punjab, where it is in power, due to face elections next year.

Clean postings: A test of political will

The Karnataka government's move to formalise counselling-based transfers for sub-registrars, backed by a structured demerit-point system, is a welcome acknowledgement of a long-festering problem. By assigning four negative points for criminal cases or Lokayukta traps, three for sanctioned prosecution, two for proven misconduct, and one for pending inquiries, the draft rules attempt to link postings with probity. In principle, this is a significant shift. For far too long, prime sub-registrar offices – particularly in Bengaluru – have been treated as private fiefdoms, where postings are secured and retained through opaque means. Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda's intent to eliminate "influence and recommendations" and open up high-value postings to honest officers is sound. These measures, if enforced in letter and spirit, could begin to dismantle entrenched patronage networks that have plagued the Stamps and Registration Department for years.

However, counselling-based transfers are not new. They were introduced last year, and at that time, too, the government spoke of sub-registrars remaining in the same posts for years – even a decade – and promised a transparent reset. Today, the same concerns are being reiterated almost verbatim. If officers who overstayed in prime postings continue to do so, it raises a fundamental question: Did last year's counselling exercise achieve anything beyond optics? This continuity of rhetoric without demonstrable outcomes points to a deeper institutional resistance. Sub-registrar offices have long been synonymous with corruption, with touts effectively controlling them. These middlemen thrive not merely because of weak systems but due to collusion with officials. Though this is an open secret, the political executive – across administrations – has rarely demonstrated the will to break this nexus. The persistence of the problem suggests not a lack of diagnosis, but a deficit of enforcement. Without political will that goes beyond policy announcements – backed by strict monitoring, real-time audits, and visible punitive action – this reform risks going the way of many before it.

The counselling-based transfer policy for sub-registrars is well-intentioned. Will real enforcement follow?

The cautionary tale of e-khata looms large. Conceived as a digital antidote to corruption in property records, it instead created new avenues for manipulation, proving that technology and policy, in isolation, cannot overcome vested interests. The proposed counselling framework must not meet the same fate. If this exercise is to mean anything, it must deliver: frequent rotation, protection and recognition of honest officers, and a decisive dismantling of the tout-driven ecosystem. Karnataka does not need another well-intentioned reform that fades into irrelevance; it needs the resolve to confront, and finally break, a system that has long operated with impunity.

POWER SWITCH

A solar solution for India's energy squeeze

Expanding solar capacity, storage, and adoption will be critical for reducing oil dependence and achieving energy sovereignty

AJIT RANADE

When missiles fill the skies over West Asia, the tremors reach every household's electricity and petrol bills. The conflict has exposed the vulnerability of India, the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil, which imports nearly 89% of its requirement – roughly 1.75 billion barrels a year, or about 4.8 million barrels a day. Over 60% of that flows through the geopolitically sensitive Strait of Hormuz.

In 2024-25, India's crude oil import bill was $137 billion. If prices stay at the March average of $113.57, this would balloon to nearly $200 billion. Every ten-dollar rise in the price of a barrel of crude adds $14 to $16 billion to India's import bill. That is money drained from our precious foreign exchange reserves. That refined oil goes into trucks that move goods, tractors that farm fields, and fishing boats that feed coastal communities. It also powers diesel generators that keep telecom towers humming across rural India. There is a way to reduce this vulnerability. We are a nation bathed in light!

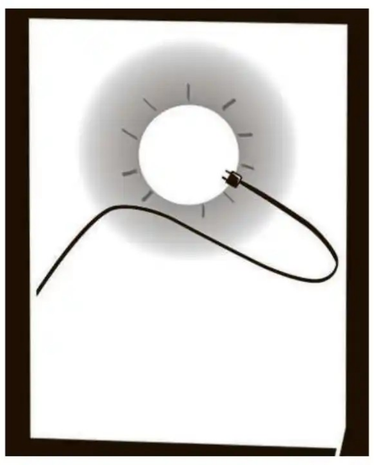
India's geography gifts it with a blazing sun for more than 300 days a year. Unfortunately, sometimes, summer heat can also be a curse. We just witnessed a scorching April week. Nineteen of the twenty hottest cities in the world were in India. But what is a climate burden is simultaneously an energy opportunity of historic proportions.

India leads the International Solar Alliance, a coalition of over 120 sunshine-rich nations. In 2025, India added 38 gigawatts of solar capacity, surpassing the United States, which added 35 GW. Total installed solar capacity now stands at over 150 GW, and annual solar generation has rocketed from 3.4 terawatt-hours in 2013-14 to 144 TWh in 2024-25.

As April's brutal heatwave pushed temperatures into the mid-forties and air conditioners across north India ran at full blast, the electricity grid faced its highest ever demand: 256 GW. Solar power alone was generating 81 GW on that critical day. This accounted for one-third of the total national generation. The grid did not collapse. It passed the stress test.

Solar's potential is not just as clean energy, but also as securing our foreign exchange. Even a 10% reduction in oil import dependence would save between $13 and $20 billion annually, depending on oil prices. A displacement of 100 million barrels through solar-powered electricity substituting diesel gensets, electric pumps replacing diesel pumps, and electric vehicles reducing petrol and diesel demand, would still save $7.5 to $11 billion a year in foreign exchange.

There is also an intriguing possibility of India becoming an energy exporter. India's refining capacity of 258 million metric tonnes already exceeds its



domestic consumption of 239 MMT. In 2025, India exported 64.7 MMT of refined petroleum products – petrol, diesel, and aviation fuel – worth over $52 billion, a record high. Its refining capacity is set to expand to 309 MMT by 2028. If solar and electrification progressively reduce domestic fuel consumption, more of what India refines goes abroad, earning precious dollars. India would be importing crude, refining it far more efficiently, and exporting value-added fuel – functioning as a regional energy hub.

The trajectory, if pursued with determination, could see India shifting from an energy importer to a net energy value exporter. This is in the realm of the thinkable.

Challenges not insurmountable

There are hurdles in the solar journey. Panels need large tracts of land. This is a genuine constraint in a country where farmland is scarce and contested. The answer lies in deploying solar panels on fallow wasteland, rooftops, highway corridors, and canal banks. India already has programmes for all of these. Solar panels also need water to wash off the thick dust that settles on them, especially in Rajasthan and Gujarat, where solar potential is greatest, but water is scarce. Waterless robotic panel cleaners are an emerging solution. India should produce these at scale domestically.

Most critically, without storage, solar has a structural limitation. India urgently needs a massive deployment of storage systems. In 2025, India curtailed 2.3 TWh of clean solar power, simply because the grid could not absorb it. That is both an engineering failure and an economic one.

Then, there is the China problem. India imports most of its solar panels and components from China, which deepens trade asymmetry. However, domestic solar module manufacturing capacity has grown to 172 GW. The government has set a target of domestically produced solar cells and wafers by 2028. An India that makes its own solar equipment is truly energy sovereign.

Here are five action points. One: treat solar energy as part of the national security infrastructure. Funding should be at least doubled. Two: invest urgently and massively in battery storage. Or else, every evening, the grid falls back on coal and diesel. Three: upgrade the national transmission grid. Solar-rich states like Rajasthan and Gujarat need to be able to evacuate to demand centres in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Four: accelerate EV adoption since transport is the single-largest consumer of petroleum. Five: scale rooftop solar energy through PM Surya Ghar and allied schemes.

India's peak power demand is projected to rise further to 271 GW, driven partly by rising incomes and the spread of air conditioning. The opportunity and the urgency are both enormous.

The West Asia crisis offers us a window. In a world where oil routes can be disrupted overnight by wars India did not start, energy independence becomes a sovereign necessity. Every GW of solar power installed is one step away from the Strait of Hormuz. Every EV on the road is a barrel of oil India does not have to import. Every rooftop panel is a small act of national self-reliance.

The sun rises over India every morning without negotiation, without geopolitics, and without a price tag. The question is how India can harvest it at the scale and speed the moment demands.

(The writer is an economist; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

When a broken leg shifted roles

Through the chaos of her special mind emerged an affectionate person

RENUKA MENON

If there ever was a good time to break a leg—quite literally—this was it: just after the trek had been successfully completed and a reasonably good breakfast eaten. Of course, this clarity arrived in retrospect, long after I had heard the doctor announce, in that unnecessarily cheerful tone, that "we'll do a quick surgery and put a plate in you."

Life flings unexpected things at us all the time. We feel oddly entitled to the pleasant surprises—the perfect sunset despite landing in Goa mid-monsoon or the time-warp joy of a low-traffic day in Bangalore. But when the unexpected turns unpleasant, there is instant consternation and a sharp sense of victimhood.

Anyway, armed with such mildly annoying philosophical thoughts, I settled down to stretched legs and bed trays for a month.

The homecoming after surgery was easy enough. Husband manfully pushed the wheelchair to my room, where I would shuffle around with a walker for weeks. Son strung up fairy lights, arranged flowers, and made the best cup of tea ever. Soon, I was well installed in my little universe—laptop, phone, book, and spectacles neatly within reach.

Husband and son adopted a routine of peeking in cheerleader-style a few times a day and otherwise left me in the kind, efficient charge of the woman who had long been my support system.

All the while, my daughter—a special needs adult—was watching. She had visited me in hospital, staring uncertainly at the unfamiliar sight of me in a gown with a bandaged foot and drips. Once we were home, she did not leave my side that first week. She was constantly at hand, ready to switch the fan, TV, and chargers on and off for the tenth time or to bring water, cushions, or anything else she thought I might need. She followed me carefully from room to dining table and back, carrying my essentials—phone, book, and spectacles—making me feel like royalty.

The tables had turned. Our princess, who once flung open her bedroom door each morning and shouted, "Amma, come up!"—sending me scurrying—had herself become an Amma. She slept beside me, carefully folding herself into a corner to avoid my injured foot. She kept me company through the day, blaring Indian Idol songs but pausing them instantly when I took a call. She handed me my meds and asked about my next doctor visit.

There comes a moment in every parent's life when they realise, often to their surprise, that their child has grown up. For many mothers of daughters, it is marked by frocks turning into saris, rebellion mellowing into wisdom, and a daddy's girl becoming the mother's best friend.

For me, none of these had happened. My little girl had remained a little girl at thirty. But that bedridden month was a watershed. Through the fog and chaos of her special mind emerged an affectionate, capable person. And I felt certain that there would be a time when she could and would become a woman.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Poll procrastination undermines citizen rights

Apropos 'No excuses: Bengaluru can't afford poll delay' (Apr 28), it is a sad commentary about the government's apathy towards citizens' rights to have an elected body to govern the Greater Bengaluru Authority. On one pretext or another, the authorities, apparently in connivance with politicians, find new excuses to postpone the elections. Most importantly, despite the Supreme Court's ultimatum to complete the election process by end-June, the State Election Commission is again going to the apex court with a plea for more time on the pretext of a fund crunch. The SEC is expected to be fully aware of the fact that financial constraints cannot be cited as a reason for not holding the elections. Under the circumstances, it would be prudent for the court to consider contempt of court action against the erring authorities.

H V K Bhatta, Bengaluru

Misuse of law

Apropos 'Non-application of mind...' (Apr 28), the ruling by the J&K High Court reveals that certain laws, intended to be used with extreme caution and only in exceptional circumstances, are increasingly being weaponised by governments to victimise or subjugate political rivals. Mehraj Malik, a first-time AAP MLA, was held for eight months under J&K's Public Safety Act—the state equivalent of UAPA—for allegedly indulging in "activities prejudicial to public order", even though his argument with a senior administrator could hardly be classified as such. In a democracy governed by the rule of law, no one has the right to misuse legislation to settle political scores. Malik's protracted detention has weakened the mandate given to him by voters. It is time to remove loosely worded provisions in such laws and to prescribe disciplinary action for authorities and compensation for victims in clear instances of misuse.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

Alarming pollution

This refers to 'Heavy metals, chemicals choke Cauvery' (Apr 27). The presence of high amounts of heavy metals in the Cauvery water is alarming. These findings should jolt the authorities concerned into action.

A K Shariff, Mysuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The problem is that the TMC is transforming criminals into political leaders. Abhishek Banerjee is doing this kind of activity...The BJP has already secured 100 seats (in West Bengal). Now it is the BJP's turn to form the government in the second phase of the election...

Sukanta Majumdar, Union Minister

Man does not live by words alone, in spite of the fact that sometimes he has to eat them.

Ralph Bellamy

TO BE PRECISE

"Carry onion in pocket to beat heat": Union minister

IN PERSPECTIVE

When service replaces *sewa*

Framing education entirely through measurable outcomes devalues mentorship and intellectual rigour

NAVNEET SHARMA AND SUSHANT KISHORE

Indian and Western perspectives on education share a common idea: that education serves a higher, almost metaphysical, purpose for individuals and communities, a purpose higher than the immediate utilitarian goal of landing a job. In the Indian ethos, education was *sewa*, a selfless relational practice where the value of service lies in collective welfare rather than individual gain. Embedded in indigenous traditions, *sewa* ties ethical action to humility, reciprocity, and an awareness of interdependence, rather than to market exchange or measurable "deliverables." The teacher was a mentor and a character-builder responsible for constructing an individual's cognition and moral compass. This was service in its purest form: a commitment to the future of the person and the community.

However, this moral grammar of service in education has been dislodged by a neoliberal service economy, replaced with the jargon of consumerism and the semantics of efficiency, consumer satisfaction, and return on investment. Service no longer signifies an aspirational ethic but a contractual obligation governed by metrics, reviews, and performance audits.

The 1990s expansion of banking, IT, BPOs, hospitality, and other "service" industries in India not only absorbed labour, but also catalysed a fundamental reimagination of what it meant for education to be "useful". As service-sector-led growth became the emblem of national progress, educational systems changed to align with "employability". The promise of education now is articulated in the idiom of placement, soft skills, and industry-readiness rather than intellectual formation, critical thinking, or ethical citizenship. Education has begun to appear less as a slow, dialogic cultivation of judgment and more as a training module calibrated to produce flexible, compliant, and expendable service providers.

When everything is a service, everyone becomes a customer. This consumerist model of education recasts the student from "learner" to "customer" and knowledge to a measurable commodity, privileging outcome attainments and CGPAs over inquiry, argumentation, and curiosity. Classrooms become service environments governed by satisfaction metrics, where teachers are evaluated through feedback scores and marketable outcomes.

Teaching is reduced to information delivery, and intellectual rigour or critical challenge risk being seen as service failures. The customer-is-always-right model reduces the teacher's ability to truly mentor and compromises their authority to demand excellence, growth, or instil discipline.

Framing education as a service erodes its transformative element. While the "service" aspect might be delivered through palatable curriculum design, content delivery, and passable assessments, the *sewa* aspect, the building of a human being through an interpersonal process, is lost.

Beyond industrial logic

This has led to impoverishment. As the service language seeps through education policies, accreditations, and institutional and parental expectations, it promotes a transactional system that struggles to justify why deep, critical, and often unsettling learning should matter. Education is being treated like a software patch or a dine-in experience. However, unlike them, education is a complex collaborative process of growth, of both students and teachers. Reducing it to a service not just devalues a profession, but also undermines the intellectual and moral foundations of the next generation.

The rise of artificial intelligence and Large Language Models continues to expose the shortsightedness of higher education systems modelled on the service sectors. Since the 1990s, universities have evolved as high-volume assembly lines producing a service-ready white-collar workforce for the IT industry. Unfortunately, the sector has now outpaced the demand for the skilled workforce it once created. Now that AI and LLM are taking over coding and information management, humans must master what machines cannot – empathy, accountability, complex moral reasoning, the ability to process another's perspective, and to act with integrity under conditions of uncertainty.

These are not just buzzwords. They are the core values of any society that hopes to remain humane in the age of artificial efficiency. They cannot be acquired through short-term and fast-paced skill modules, but only through a prolonged process of dialogue and disagreement, ambiguity, intellectual difficulty, and ethical dialectics.

We are stepping into an era where being a well-rounded, reflective human being is becoming more important to both industry and the wider community. The present existential crisis of education is an opportunity to think ahead of the industrial logic of input-output and audits, and to re-invent the classic vocation of mentoring, forming individuals who can make sense of the unpredictable world with courage and care. If we fail to make this change to our education system, we will have hollowed it out ourselves, long before the machines arrive.

(Navneet teaches education at Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala; Sushant teaches English at VIT, Vellore)

The stink of exclusion: Gendered sanitation infrastructure in Delhi

VINITA KUMARI AND VIPUL ANEKANT

Modern metropolises reflect historical power relations, particularly those of caste, class, and gender. Urban landscapes often serve as evidence of planning philosophies that have historically prioritised the 'male-worker' as the primary user of public space, thereby reinforcing hierarchical power structures rather than promoting egalitarian power-sharing that uplifts subaltern and historically oppressed communities. Social constructions dominated by patriarchal power structures shape how individuals create, reproduce, and transform their environments. In turn, these environments and their transformation reflect, reproduce, and modify gender relations and perpetuate patriarchy. Consequently, the experiences of women and men in cities are largely gendered.

As Delhi transitions toward a 'night economy', characterised by increased female labour force participation and new labour codes on social security that enable women to work night shifts, the call for a 'Fair-Shared City' grows louder. A city must be designed and managed to provide equitable opportunities and access to resources for all citizens, irrespective of gender, age, socio-economic status, or other identities. In Delhi, gender exclusion is most evident in the ongoing sanitation crisis. Access to clean and safe sanitation is not merely a convenience but a prerequisite for dignity, health, and freedom of movement. Existing public sanitation facilities are inadequate for both sexes. But for women, first, public toilet facilities are asymmetrically skewed in many areas. And even if they are available, they are not usable. Women must hold urine for hours or restrict water intake to avoid non-existent or dilapidated facilities, increasing the risk of urinary tract infections and other health issues. This situation forces women to bear the private costs of public planning failures. The absence of adequate facilities constitutes a silent form of 'infrastructural violence' and 'institutional apathy', imposing both physical and emotional burdens as women navigate a city that neglects their fundamental biological needs.

Travelling through Delhi, it is impossible to miss the semi-open, foul-smelling urinals for men on the roadside, while women's washrooms remain a rare sight. These semi-open facilities, while serving men, can unintentionally create hostile environments for others through visual and sensory discomfort. This form of olfactory exclusion, referred to as 'scent distress', operates as a mechanism of structural discrimination, leading to disengagement and psychological harm. Men's comfort is prioritised through urinals on the footpaths, while the resulting odour and a lack of privacy for women serve to evict them from the sidewalk.

The gendered experience of the city is further shaped by intersections with class and caste. In Delhi's unauthorised colonies and slum areas, access to public toilets is a daily challenge. The lived experiences of women, including Dalit and divyang women, residing in the slums differ markedly from those of more privileged women. Public sanitation spaces often become sites of sexual harassment. Factors such as inadequate lighting, broken doors, and the lack of separate toilets for men and women exacerbate vulnerabilities and adversely affect both physical and social well-being.

The Master Plan of Delhi 2041 emphasises inclusivity; however, critics argue that it lacks specific gender-responsive provisions. It is commendable that in 2015, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) mandated a 50:50 male-to-female ratio for public toilets, replacing the 60:40 ratio set in 1983. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has approved 'Pink Bus Toilets', yet these initiatives remain temporary solutions to a structural crisis. Despite such policy changes, implementation remains insufficient. In 2019, research by the Praja Foundation indicated that Delhi had one public toilet seat for every 9,630 women, compared to one for every 3,982 men. There is no functional public women's washroom on the Delhi University North Campus, except for one at the metro station. In July 2025 and February 2026, the Delhi High Court strongly criticised civic bodies for the unsanitary condition of public toilets, ruling that filthy facilities violate citizens' right to life and dignity under Article 21.

While Delhi faces ongoing challenges, other metropolises have implemented models that position sanitation as a fundamental aspect of urban belonging. Singapore's 2013 code revision increased the female-to-male toilet ratio in new buildings to 5:3 to address biological needs. Since the early 1990s, Vienna has completed over 60 urban projects with a gender-sensitive approach. Delhi should incorporate gender mainstreaming in sanitation planning through specific design standards, innovative technologies, and integrated social policies. Semi-open urinals should be permanently closed. Community-led maintenance by women's self-help groups, as demonstrated in Tiruchirappalli, offers a viable model. The city requires data-driven planning to determine stall ratios, establish explicit maintenance mandates, and institutionalise potty parity by ensuring that every marketplace and transit hub provides a functional, well-lit women's facility equipped with essential amenities such as sanitary napkin vending machines.

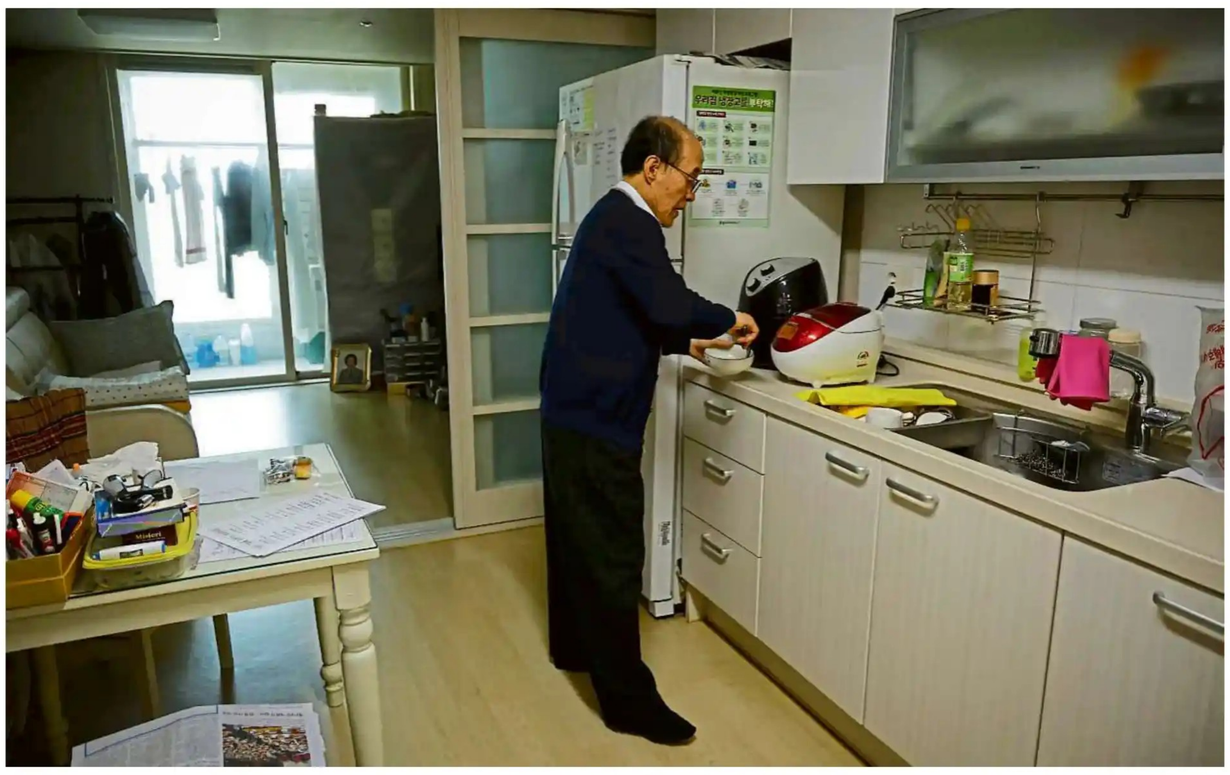
When women are forced to calculate the risk of drinking a glass of water based on the availability of a clean toilet, both the city and society have failed in their fundamental duty of care. Achieving spatial justice requires moving beyond structural inclusion to foster a sense of belonging. While inclusion addresses structural access, belonging involves emotional acceptance, allowing individuals to exist in a space without judgment or surveillance. The 'Right to Pee' ultimately signifies the right to the city itself: the right to participate in public, academic, and economic life without fear, discomfort, or exclusion. Cities must first ensure inclusivity in basic amenities to create a safe, shared home for all their citizens.

(Vinita is a PhD research scholar in urban geographies, Delhi University, and Vipul is the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police)

In the world's fastest ageing society, artificial intelligence is being used to make care calls to older adults who live alone and to fight dementia

How South Korea is checking on its seniors

CHOE SANG-HUN



For Park Jong-yeol, an 81-year-old Vietnam War veteran, the call service bot has become a fixture in his daily fight against illness and cognitive decline, reminding him to eat well, take his medication and stay social. NYT

Chung Yun-hee awoke to a body in revolt. Drenched in sweat and wracked with pain, the septuagenarian crawled into the bathroom of her small, quiet apartment on the outskirts of Seoul. She was still hunched over the toilet, vomiting, when her smartphone rang. A bright, articulate female voice asked how she was doing. Chung managed a few strained words—too sick to talk—and hung up.

Help arrived anyway. The caller, an artificial intelligence chatbot nicknamed "Talking Buddy," immediately alerted a social worker. Within hours, Chung was in surgery for an acute hernia.

"Doctors said I could have been in serious trouble had I arrived any later," Chung, 77, recalled of the episode in late 2024. "They said AI saved me."

South Korea is ageing faster than any other nation. In mere 15 years, the number of people older than 65 has doubled to more than a fifth of the population. The country does not have enough doctors, social workers or family caregivers to support its elderly. Artificial intelligence is helping fill some of that gap.

Talking Buddy, a care call service developed by Naver Cloud and adopted by cities and counties across the country, checks on tens of thousands of seniors living alone in isolation or poverty. It holds tailored conversations that are two- to five-minutes long and designed to ease loneliness, detect emergencies and stimulate cognitive function to stave off dementia.

On a recent morning, the bot noted the fine weather and suggested that a walk would lift Chung's spirits. When she mentioned planting flowers, the bot reminisced about "pink and white cosmos with a yellow centre," as if conjuring a memory.

The technology remains a work in progress. It occasionally cuts off a user mid-sentence or hallucinates unauthorised promises — like the time it impulsively offered to send bags of rice to a cash-strapped resident. Yet, users have embraced it with a warmth that has surprised even its creators. One woman confessed her depression to the bot, saying her dog ran away and never came back. Another played the piano for it; others invited it over for lunch, knowing full well it couldn't come, according to social workers.

"It makes me feel that I am not forgotten, that someone is paying attention to me," Chung said.

In Seongnam, a city just outside Seoul, another septuagenarian sat in the Roa Neurology Clinic, her fingers hovering nervously over a tablet. Diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment—the stage between normal ageing and dementia — she was learning to use SuperBrain. An AI-powered digital therapeutics programme developed with government funding, it offers personalised exercises designed to slow cognitive decline.

Images of a tiger and other animals appeared on the tablet's screen, each paired with a number. Then, only the animals remained, and she was asked to recall their numbers. She leaned forward, concentrating hard. This was more than a game — it was a fight for her independence.

"I knew something was wrong when I couldn't remember the name of the fruit I had just eaten or when I kept forgetting the passcode to my door," the 72-year-old said quietly. Ashamed of the stigma surrounding dementia in South Korea, she asked to be identified only by her last name, Min. "It was frustrating."

Her doctor, Wang Min-jeong, has seen this fear grow steadily over the past decade. Today, half of her patients arrive worried about dementia. "They fear it more than cancer— the thought of slowly losing control of their mind and body and turning into an enormous, prolonged burden on their families," Wang said.

The stakes are national. Experts warn of a "dementia tsunami," with cases expected to double to two million by 2044. The government is racing to detect impairment early, as combining medication with lifestyle changes and cognitive training can slow the disease, said Yang Dong-won, a neurologist at Seoul St Mary's Hospital and former head of the Korea Dementia Association.

Yang sees the toll every day. Kim Kwae-im, who took her mother to see Yang, has watched both her parents succumb to Alzheimer's. Her father began hoarding scrap metal and discarded newspapers, filling their apartment and drawing complaints from neighbours. Her mother, once a housemaid, can no longer work.

For specialists such as Yang, SuperBrain offers relief. The programme automatically grades exercises assigned to the patients, adjusts their difficulty and sends feedback to physicians — saving time and yielding more reliable data, since unmonitored patients often exaggerate or conceal how much they do. "We can monitor how often they did their exercises," Yang said.

Since 2021, SuperBrain has logged 1.5 million exercise sessions with more than 10,000 patients nationwide, said Han Seunghyun, the CEO of Rowan, which created SuperBrain. "It's like having a seasoned doctor living inside the tablet," said Kang Sungmin, one of the neuropsychologists who helped design it.

The other tool, Talking Buddy, began as a simple virus-tracking tool programmed to ask a single, repetitive question during the pandemic: Do you have a fever? But as the world locked down, local welfare officials approached its creator, Naver Cloud, with an urgent report: Many elderly citizens were slipping into the shadows, isolated at home and at risk of dying alone.

"They were making care calls to say hello, but there were too many people and not enough hands," said Ok Sang-houn, a Naver executive. "They asked us for a version that could actually talk — that could help them feel a little less invisible."

Naver turned to generative AI, spurred by research showing that regular care calls help the elderly fight depression and sharpen memory.

In some ways, Ok noted, AI makes a superior caregiver: It has a vast memory (recently asking Chung about her post-surgery recovery) and an infinite well of patience. "AI has no emotions, so it never gets angry," he said. "But," he admitted, "it still lacks the human ability to read the room."

The technology has other quirks. Talking Buddy can be thrown off by a blaring television, a common fixture in many seniors' homes. All interactions are monitored by human social workers to iron out missteps.

"When a senior says, 'I'm so weak I'm ready to die,' it's often a figure of speech, not a crisis," explained Chung Hae-jin, who supervises the service in the populous Gyeonggi province. "AI can't always tell the difference. We follow up and often find them as cheerful as a lark."

The service is subscription-based, with social workers encouraging seniors — particularly those living alone — to enrol. The bot is programmed to prompt seniors to maintain healthy habits, such as eating and sleeping well, exercising and socializing more. Additionally, local hospitals use Talking Buddy to remind older patients to take their medication on schedule.

Recently, when a senior reported discomfort from a fractured rib, the monitoring social worker's screen immediately flagged the alert "pain around the chest" in red. These alerts prompt social workers to review the transcript and audio file, call the senior directly, and, if necessary, coordinate with local officials to intervene.

The bot has become a genuine helper, flagging hundreds of emergencies. In one instance, social workers said, it reached a woman with mild dementia who had wandered off and lost her bearings; she answered the bot's scheduled call, allowing officials to locate her.

To prevent scammers from mimicking the service with a human voice, the bot intentionally sounds slightly mechanical. For Park Jong-yeol, an 81-year-old Vietnam War veteran, none of that matters. The bot, he said, is "better than a human."

The New York Times

Goosebumps and governance

P JOHN J KENNEDY

Vandu Murugan had always believed in two things, both equally sacred: first-day-first-show and Anna. So, when Anna announced his candidacy, Vandu Murugan didn't just celebrate. He wept. He rolled in the middle of the street with such hysteria that a stray dog stopped and stared at him. He even forgave Nesamani from next door, who had once called Anna "just another mediocre actor", a crime he logged carefully in a notebook.

"History!" Vandu declared, climbing onto a tea shop bench. "Cinema is about to correct politics! The villain will lose! The hero will win!" The tea shop owner asked him to get off the bench. Vandu got off. But heroically.

The campaign rallies looked like audio launches. Music loud enough to rearrange one's internal organs. Drone cameras circled dramatically overhead. Vandu attended six of them. He would have attended a seventh, but his wife hid his sandals. The promises arrived in waves, each grander than the last. Free electricity. Free transport. Free Wi-Fi. Free everything for everyone, forever, always. "Cost?" a journalist asked timidly.

"Don't insult people's dignity by asking about cost," Anna's most trusted campaigner, Ananda, replied. "This is about care. This is about love. This is about us." He adjusted his *veshti* and strode off like a man who had just delivered a film dialogue. Vandu nodded vigorously.

Then, one night, something strange happened. In his sleep, he dreamed of the future—of Anna winning, of real governance beginning.

In the dream, the swearing-in had the first-day-first-show atmosphere. The governor squinted at the crowd, visibly unsure which event he had shown up for. The first scheme, *Machan Seer* (brother-in-law's gift), was implemented. Why? Because Anna's government would stand like a blood relative to every citizen. Vandu's package arrived. It contained a gold-coloured steel plate, a shawl, a laminated photograph of Anna, and a note: "More *seer* coming soon. Keep the photo in a ventilated area."

"This," Vandu told his wife, "is governance with emotion." She looked at the steel plate. "Can we eat off it?" "Not yet. It must be framed first."

Months passed in the dream. Electricity was free on some days. The other days were officially called "planned darkness for national reflection". A line suddenly appeared on household bills: Service Adjustment Contribution. Nobody remembered voting for it. Over the days, the rice bag at the ration shop looked smaller. "Stock adjustment," the shopkeeper said. "But everything is free!" Vandu protested. The shopkeeper smiled faintly.

Cabinet meetings, meanwhile, were lively. "We need a mass intro for this welfare scheme." "Something with punch dialogues." "And rain," said a third. "Yes, people trust schemes announced in the rain." Anna nodded gravely. "People must feel goosebumps when they receive benefits. Otherwise, what is the point? Without wasting time, the goosebumps committee was formed that afternoon. But files moved slowly, although the welfare scheme trailers were released on time in 4K with Dolby Atmos.

One day, Vandu's son came home from school beaming. "Appa, I got full marks in slow-motion walking!" Exams had been abolished in favour of "natural talent expression". Graded now on confidence, screen presence, and slow-motion walking. "Maths?" Vandu asked. "Optional." "Science?" "Appa", the boy said gently, "stress is the real enemy, so all these subjects are optional."

At a massive rally, Anna stood before a sea of people. "My dear brothers, I have given you everything. And I have nothing more to give." The crowd cheered. Out of habit. Vandu wondered what he got. Nothing, except assurances. Anna appeared again in a larger-than-life image, saying, "Style, Blast, Pakka Mass."

The shock woke him up. He sat up. Outside, Nesamani was sweeping his porch, unhurried. Vandu thought. Yes, after many years. Without background music. That evening, his son asked, "Appa, you think Anna will win?"

"I don't know," he said. And for the first time in years, the not-knowing didn't frighten him.

"Who did you vote for?" his son pressed. Vandu smiled. Not the wide, bright, slightly unhinged fan's smile he'd worn for years. A quieter one. The smile of a man who had walked out of a very loud theatre into the cool evening and found that he could hear himself think.

"No more heroes," he said at last. "Only leaders." And somewhere, faintly, the background music stopped playing. Not dramatically. Not with a cinematic fade. Just... stopped. The way things do in real life.

This is a work of pure fiction. Any resemblance to real politicians, real promises, or real rice bags that seem smaller than last month is entirely coincidental. Reader discretion is lovingly advised.

(The writer is an educator and political analyst based in Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: APRIL 1976

MISA detenues can't move court for release, SC rules

New Delhi, April 28
No detenue held under the MISA Act can move a court and seek release so long as the enforcement of fundamental rights remains suspended during Emergency, the Supreme Court ruled today. By a majority 4-1 judgment in the Habeas Corpus Case, the court also upheld the validity of MISA's Section 16 A (9) prohibiting the disclosure of the grounds of detention. It was also ruled that the presidential order of June 27, 1975, under article 359 (1), took away the *locus standi* of detenues to move any writ petition.

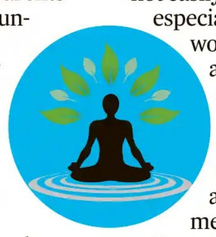
25 YEARS AGO: APRIL 2001

Centre announces ceasefire with rebel Naga group

New Delhi, April 28
In a fresh move aimed at expanding the constituency of peace in the insurgency-prone north-eastern state of Nagaland, the Centre today announced a ceasefire agreement with the Khaplang group of the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN). The ceasefire agreement is for a period of one year. Announcing this here today, Union Home Minister L K Advani said the Union Government and the NSCN (Khaplang) had also jointly finalised ceasefire ground rules.

OASIS | LEELA RAMASWAMY

The power of positive self talk



Recently my daughter attended a school reunion. She had studied in that school only for her last one and a half years, but her classmates invited her and coaxed her to join in. After returning she said it was great fun, adding that many of them had changed in looks. Naturally, they reminisced a great deal, recalling both good and not-so-good incidents. Sadly, many unpleasant occurrences involved teachers. Very few of them had been kind and had given loving guidance; many were unnecessarily harsh.

They even refused to accept genuine excuses and explanations. On one occasion, two friends, good in different subjects, exchanged answers, thinking it was a sign of friendship, but were accused of cheating. Their parents were called and they were punished both in school and at home. Others were publicly humiliated and sent out of class. Suffice it to say, that they had good words for only one teacher.

Both as a former teacher and as a grown-up, my daughter's words left me deeply thoughtful. We hardly realise that children are very impressionable and our words can influence them deeply. Words are more powerful than perhaps any one suspects and once engraved in a child's mind are not easily erased. We, as adults and especially teachers, live in our own world of impeccable behaviour and adopt attitudes that are demanding. We often forget that children look up to us and have impressionable minds. Harsh punishments, and too many silent treatments can harm. Many become diminished and even feel worthless because of these powerful memories. Criticism, even if it seems accurate and deserved, affects one's self-worth and moulds the outlook on life. We become critical and are not pleased with the success of others.

There is no need to despair though. We are, both children and adults, in control of our thoughts and attitudes. The good news is that every one of us can shake off all feelings of inferiority. We can replace it with positive self-talk. But this takes practice and dedication.

This means positive reinforcement every time we feel depressed. Each of us is a worthwhile person, because everyone possesses some extraordinary talent and everyone's contribution is both precious and necessary!

Activists call out bureaucratic dominance in info commissions

Slam skewed selection process, demand diverse professional mix

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

CLOSED CLUB?

- 18 of 20 shortlisted for CIC/IC posts in Dec last year were bureaucrats
- Activists say RTI Act mandate ignored, as law calls for diverse expertise
- Posts are mostly sought by retiring civil servants

Eighteen of the 20 people shortlisted by a search committee led by the Cabinet Secretary for the posts of Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners in December last year were from the bureaucracy, prompting transparency activists to once again question the skewed appointment process.

Of the 20 shortlisted, one CIC and eight Information Commissioners were appointed.

Seven of them were former or serving civil servants, while two were journalists. The RTI Act 2005 mandates that people with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media, or administration and governance should be considered for these posts.

Documents placed in the public domain by the Department of Personnel and Training showed that the search panel shortlisted four civil servants, three of them retired, for consideration by the selection committee headed by PM Narendra Modi. The panel selected former Law Secretary Raj Kumar Goyal as the CIC, while Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi submitted a dissent note recommending that former IAS officer Sumita Dawra be appointed.

According to the 'Report Card of Information Commissions 2024-25' prepared by Satark Nagrik Sangathan (SNS), 85% of the 157 CICs appointed so far were retired government servants. Among the 551 ICs, 56% were retired government officials.

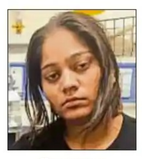
"One explanation could be that these posts are sought after by retiring civil servants, who often enjoy political patronage and are perhaps seen by governments as more pliant," transparency activist Anjali Bhardwaj of SNS told *DH*.

She said that Information Commissions need to be more balanced bodies, with greater gender parity and a mix of professionals from diverse fields.

Venkatesh Nayak, Director of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, said the search panel assumes that retired bureaucrats are the sole repository of eminence in public life.

Meghalaya 'honeymoon murder' accused gets bail

GUWAHATI, DHNS: A court in Shillong has granted bail to Sonam Raghuvanshi nearly 10 months after she was arrested in connection with the alleged murder of her husband.


Sonam Raghuvanshi

The court of additional district judge on Monday granted bail to Sonam, primarily on the ground that she was not effectively communicated about the reason for her arrest last June. The order was made public on Tuesday.

In the 790-page chargesheet in September, Meghalaya police claimed that Sonam and her associates killed Raja with a sharp weapon. A supplementary chargesheet was filed in February this year.

Sonam's lawyer said since one more accused had been summoned in the supplementary chargesheet and several new documents and additional sections were added, trial in the case remained halted for more than two months since February 3.

"In that view of the matter, the accused cannot be put under pre-conviction detention for an infinite period of time without any trial," her lawyer argued.

The court granted bail on the conditions that Sonam shall not abscond or tamper with the evidence or witnesses.

NCERT book shortage: Centre urges digital access

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Facing a shortage of new National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks for the 2026–27 academic session, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday held a review meeting with officials.

He assessed the availability of existing stock and asked authorities to expedite textbook production. As an interim measure, he directed that digital versions be made widely accessible.

The shortage has affected schools across India, particularly at the Class 9 level under the revised curriculum.

Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, along with senior officials from the ministry and NCERT, attended the meeting.

"The minister also assessed stock positions across States and Union Territories and reviewed coordination with state authorities and distribution agencies to ensure timely delivery of books, particularly to students in rural areas," the ministry said in a release.

Pradhan emphasised that students should not face inconvenience due to delays. He directed officials to review supply chains, strengthen printing capacity where necessary, and closely monitor last-mile delivery. "He also highlighted the availability of digital textbooks through ePathshala as an interim measure to support uninterrupted learning until physical copies reach all students," the ministry added.

Students have been grappling with a shortage of textbooks aligned with the new curriculum, with digital versions made available recently. The shortage has been reported particularly in Class 9 subjects such as Science (Exploration), Mathematics and Social Science. Reports suggest that while the books are priced at around Rs 200–250, some copies were being sold online for as much as Rs 899.

Andhra journalist out on morning walk hacked to death in Chittoor

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

A journalist was brutally hacked to death by bike-borne assailants in the V Kota town of Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district on Tuesday morning, in what the police believe was a premeditated attack due to personal enmity.

K Jaganmohan Reddy, a reporter with ABN AndhraJyothy, was on his morning walk when unidentified assailants allegedly chased him down and stabbed him repeatedly with sharp weapons in Dhanapuram. He reportedly died on the spot.

Another journalist, Subrahmanyam of Prajasakti, who was walking alongside Reddy, was also attacked and sustained severe head injuries. He is currently undergoing treatment.

Jaganmohan Reddy

"We are probing all possible angles, including personal enmity, while not ruling out other motives," Chittoor Superintendent of Police (SP) Tushar Dudi said.

The police identified the prime suspect as Tameem, a known rowdy-sheeter and alleged red-sanders smuggler. He allegedly carried out the attack with at least one accomplice. Though originally from V Kota, Tameem is currently believed to be residing in Karnataka.

A case has been registered in connection with the incident. Six special teams are said to have been constituted to trace and apprehend the accused.

The police suspect that Reddy's reporting on or intervention in past cases involving Tameem might have fuelled a long-running feud between the two, though the full motive was yet to be established.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

COME OUT AND SEE THE SNOWMAN WE MADE!
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU!
OKAY...
SURPRISE, IT'S YOU!
HOW'D WE DO?
PRETTY GOOD... HE JUST NEEDS A SANDWICH IN HIS HAND!

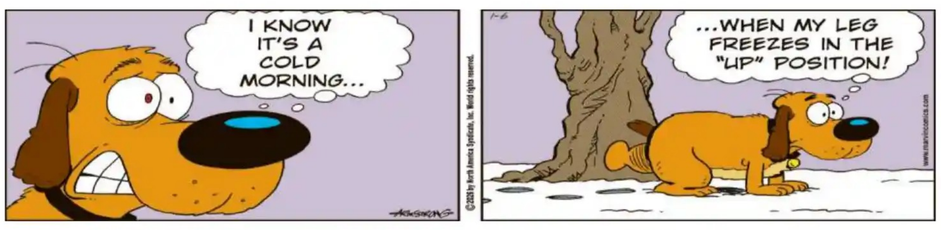
Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

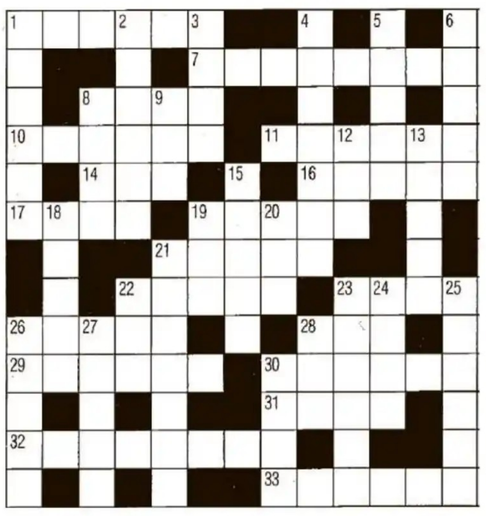
Peanuts

SO YOU DON'T THINK I'M PERFECT, HUH?
WELL, YOU'RE FAR FROM PERFECT YOURSELF CHARLIE BROWN!
AND YOUR DOG ISN'T PERFECT, EITHER!!
I'M NOT?!

Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12405



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Do monkeys have a box of them? (6)
7 A great trumpeter (8)
8 On which to advertise toothpaste? (4)
10 Those little delays dad exploits (6)
11 It's natural to take tea, perhaps, at the tavern (6)
14 Get part of the story wrong and it's nonsense! (3)
16 Dead wrong about the tango being old-fashioned (5)
17 Executed many a person (4)
19 Set out with a posh car some day (5)
21 Hardly an atheist's farewell! (5)
22 The way some things are badly grown (5)
23 You can knock the stuffing out of them, chaps! (4)
26 Biblical city of strange moods (5)
28 Wrong part for a brass instrument (3)
29 At No.1, he may have no peer (6)
30 Natural feature getting a girl in near frenzy (6)
31 Being ìway outî is no longer the thing (4)
32 Hurt as one rushed to get out of the rain (8)
33 He can speak Italian or sing madly (6)

DOWN
1 Act up on a journey, as a supporter (6)
2 Robinson's change of course (6)
3 Spots before the eyes! (4)
4 German location of bridge over parts of the Danube (7)
5 Revolutionary design for a tram (5)
6 The horse, when wild, detested all but Ted (5)
8 An act to go for? (4)
9 Tibetan girl? (3)
12 Any disruption is negative (3)
13 Tryingly irascible (5)
15 In which swimmers may finish up canned (5)
18 Location of the fringe of Surrey (2,3)
19 A party always means fuss (3)
20 He's a regular guy (3)
21 Where men have something to sing about (7)
22 Just one point ahead, was the victor (3)
23 Providing wine during the musical performance (6)
24 One French article, possibly Italian (4)
25 Joint holder (6)
26 So the Americans had a famous bandmaster (5)
27 Ready to play, darling? (5)
28 Familiar instrument with a colourful sound (3)
30 The ones in the frame? (4)

ACROSS
1 Strain, emphasis (6)
7 Genealogy (8)
8 Ill-mannered person (4)
10 Deathly (6)
11 On fire (6)
14 Regret (3)
16 Assistants (5)
17 Girl (4)
19 Lukewarm (5)
21 Grinding tooth (5)
22 Fiend (5)
23 Colour (4)
26 Note value (5)
28 Meadow (3)
29 Pressed (6)
30 Doglike (6)
31 Very keen (4)
32 Slaughterhouse (8)
33 Claws (6)

DOWN
1 Light shoe (6)
2 Mass departure (6)
3 Active and brisk (4)
4 Seem probable (3,4)
5 Tyre surface (5)
6 Outdoor events (5)
8 Excludes, obstructs (4)
9 Spanish cry (3)
12 Cover (3)
13 Riotous brawl (5)
15 Under (5)
18 Afoot (5)
19 Male cat (3)
20 Cooking vessel (3)
21 Souvenir (7)
22 Racket (3)
23 Jovial, cheerful (6)
24 Surprise attack (4)
25 Gives in (6)
26 Italian city (5)
27 Wanderer (5)
28 Loo (3)
30 Horse-dawn vehicle (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12404

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Win-ce 6, Cents 9, Hand-out 10, Oscar 11, S-cub-a 12, M-out-h 13, Program 15, Tea(house) 17, Here 18, SMERSH 19, Roots 20, Tailor 22, Sofa 24, Op.-t 25, Trumped 26, Sa-vo-y 27, Scout 28, Bra-in 29, Mentio-n 30, He-rod 31, Dates.
DOWN: 2, Insure 3, Charge 4, Ear 5, I'd-I-OM 6, Customs 7, Etch 8, Tables 12, Major 13, Photo(graphic) 14, Or-bit 15, T-roop 16, Ahead 18, S-Tory 19, Rota-Ted 21, Apache 22, S-Myrna 23, Feline 25, Tooth 26, Sum-O 28, Bod.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Cheap 6, Black 9, Bicycle 10, Snore 11, Essay 12, Signs 13, Durable 15, Den 17, Arid 18, Tenure 19, Steer 20, Unique 22, Mend 24, Mad 25, Debates 26, Score 27, Bible 28, Piste 29, Aspirin 30, Seeps 31, Tenet.
DOWN: 2, Honour 3, Abroad 4, Pie 5, Eyrie 6, Blender 7, Less 8, Crater 12, Slate 13, Datum 14, Rigid 15, Duvet 16, Needs 18, Tepee 19, Success 21, Native 22, Marine 23, Nestle 25, Drain 26, Slap 28, Pit.

◆SU-DO-KU-6892◆

			4	2	8		1	
4		9		6				3
1			3					
		4			6			
	6	3				9	4	
			8			7		
					3			5
9				1		8		2
	2		6	8	9			

hard

SOLUTION TO 6891

1	3	9	8	4	7	5	2	6
2	6	8	3	5	9	1	7	4
5	4	7	6	2	1	9	3	8
3	8	2	4	9	5	6	1	7
7	9	4	1	6	8	2	5	3
6	1	5	2	7	3	8	4	9
4	5	6	9	3	2	7	8	1
8	7	3	5	1	6	4	9	2
9	2	1	7	8	4	3	6	5

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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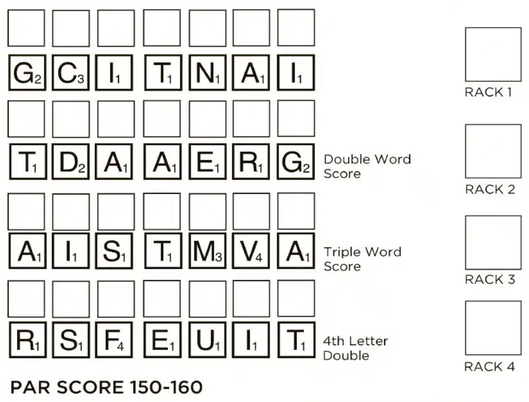
G2 C3 I1 T1 N1 A1 I1
RACK 1
T1 D2 A1 A1 E1 R1 G2
Double Word Score
RACK 2
A1 I1 S1 T1 M3 V4 A1
Triple Word Score
RACK 3
R1 S1 F4 E1 U1 I1 T1
4th Letter Double
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YEATERDAY'S SOLUTION

S1 E1 A1 W4 A1 R1 D2 — RACK 1 = 61
C3 A1 N1 T1 E1 R1 S1 — RACK 2 = 68
G2 L1 O1 A1 T1 E1 D2 — RACK 3 = 59
L1 E1 V4 I1 E1 D2 — RACK 4 = 18
PAR SCORE 135-145 — JUDD'S TOTAL 206

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GVREE

LIHYL

WSARPL

MIESOP

Oh, my! Look at that!
How is that allowed on television? Those moves are obscene!
I'm in love!
How does he move like that?
10/17
HE WAS "THE KING," BUT SOME PARENTS GOT ALL SHOOK UP BY THE HIP THRUSTS OF ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SHOWN GRANT MISHAP PADDED
Answer: The new airline offering first-class service for every passenger had — HIGH STANDARDS

HITORI-3346

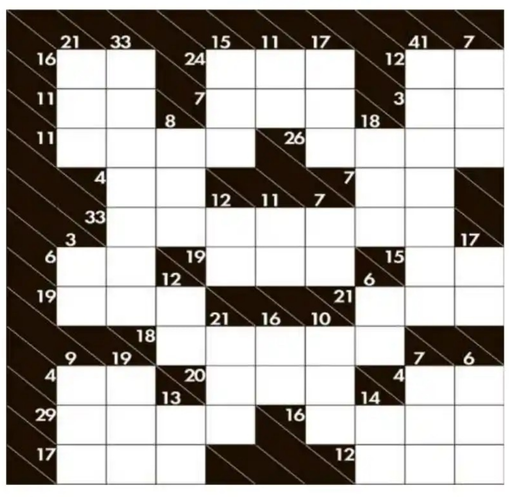
7	3	2	4	4	6	4	8
4	7	7	6	4	8	2	5
3	4	1	8	4	7	4	6
6	2	4	1	5	4	3	4
6	5	7	2	4	3	6	1
4	6	6	3	8	2	5	4
4	1	6	4	3	4	4	2
8	2	4	7	1	5	4	4

SOLUTION TO 3345

■	3	7	1	2	■	4	■
3	■	1	7	■	8	2	6
8	1	2	3	7	4	■	5
6	2	■	5	4	■	8	■
4	■	8	■	6	2	5	1
■	5	3	8	■	1	■	2
1	8	4	■	5	6	7	■
■	7	5	2	3	■	6	8

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

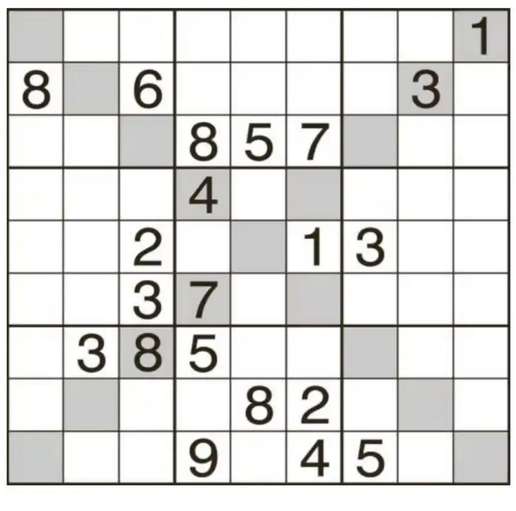
KAKURO- 3346



SOLUTION TO 3345

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3900



SOLUTION TO 3899

7	2	4	8	3	1	6	5	9
3	9	8	5	7	6	1	2	4
5	6	1	9	4	2	7	8	3
8	1	6	2	9	3	5	4	7
4	5	9	1	8	7	2	3	6
2	3	7	6	5	4	9	1	8
6	8	5	4	1	9	3	7	2
9	4	3	7	2	5	8	6	1
1	7	2	3	6	8	4	9	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Trump hails British as 'friends' as king visits amid Iran tensions

US Prez softens tone despite policy differences

WASHINGTON, AFP

President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that the United States has "no closer friends" than the British as he welcomed King Charles III to the White House on a state visit overshadowed by tensions over the Iran war.

In a speech during a pomp-filled welcome featuring a 21-gun salute, Trump struck a markedly different tone from his recent criticism of Britain's government for not joining the conflict with Tehran.

"In the centuries since we won our independence, Americans have had no closer friends than the British," Trump said, noting that the visit coincides with the 250th anniversary of US independence from British rule.

US President Donald Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, Britain's King Charles and Queen Camilla at the White House in Washington DC on Tuesday. REUTERS

Using a phrase popularised by Winston Churchill after World War II, Trump said the two countries shared a "special relationship, and we hope it will always remain that way".

The US president also praised the British military, saying that "nobody fought better together" with the United States — despite previously dismissing Britain's two aircraft carriers as "toys".

After his speech, four US jets roared over the White House in a flypast as Trump, Charles, Queen Camilla and First Lady Melania Trump looked on.

On the second day of the four-day visit, Charles is due to address the US Congress and is expected to call for "reconciliation and renewal" amid recent strains in relations.

A long-time admirer of the British royal family, Trump appeared in a jovial mood despite rainy weather, joking: "What a beautiful British day this is."

The 79-year-old president also joked that his late mother "had a crush on Charles", who is now 77.

Cannons sounded as a military band played "God Save the King" and the "Star-Spangled Banner".

Charles greeted senior US officials, including Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

The king and the president — who himself made a state visit to Britain last September — inspected troops from various branches of the US armed forces.

A band of soldiers dressed in Revolutionary War-era uniforms then marched past, playing fife and drums.

As the ceremony continued, construction noise could be heard from the site of a planned $400 million ballroom at the White House.

The Trumps are scheduled to host the royals in the Oval Office for private talks before a formal state dinner later in the evening.

Security has been tight for the visit, which comes days after a shooting at the White House Correspondents' Dinner attended by Trump.

Indians among foreigners held in Uganda crackdown

KAMPALA (UGANDA), AP/PTI: Ugandan authorities said on Tuesday that they have detained dozens of foreigners, including Indians and Pakistanis, in a crackdown on illegal migration that the internal affairs ministry suggested was linked to human traffickers and cyber scam operations.

At least 231 people have been detained since Monday in operations targeting a group of Nigerians living in the country's north, as well as another group of foreigners residing together in a closed compound in Kampala, the capital.

The second group included people from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Ghana, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Malaysia.

All were staying in "a highly restricted, self-contained apartment complex equipped with its own restaurant and internal facilities designed to restrict movement," according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Thirty-six of the 169 people found in the compound were women.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Elon Musk arrives in court for his lawsuit against OpenAI at the Ronald V Dellums Federal Building in Oakland, California, on Tuesday. AFP

Musk faces off with OpenAI in court over broken promises

▸ Elon Musk appeared in court on Tuesday for opening arguments in a high-stakes legal battle with OpenAI over whether the artificial intelligence company betrayed its non-profit mission, AFP Oakland (US).

The case, being heard in federal court in Oakland, pits the world's richest person against a start-up he once backed and now competes with in the rapidly growing AI sector. Musk was seen passing through security ahead of proceedings in a trial that could have far-reaching implications for the AI industry if he prevails. OpenAI chief executive Sam Altman — once Musk's partner and now widely regarded as his rival — was also seen entering the courthouse. The ChatGPT maker has emerged as a major competitor to Grok, developed by Musk's xAI lab. OpenAI co-founders Sam Altman and Greg Brockman "are confident in their position and look forward to the facts being known", their lawyer William Savitt said outside the court after jurors were selected on Monday. While Musk's lawsuit is part of a broader feud with Altman, it also highlights a wider debate over whether AI should benefit a select few or society as a whole.

Train crash near Jakarta kills 15

▸ Rescuers on Tuesday finished removing victims from a damaged commuter train carriage, confirming that the crash outside Indonesia's capital killed 15 people, AP/PTI reports from Bekasi.

The crash occurred Monday when a long-distance train crashed into the rear car of the stopped commuter train at Bekasi Timur Station outside Jakarta.

The car was one designated for women only, a common accommodation to stop harassment. A total of 88 injured people were taken to hospitals for treatment, said Bobby Rasyidin, CEO of state-owned railway company PT Kereta Api Indonesia.

People watch as a technician works at the site of a train accident in Bekasi, Indonesia, on Tuesday. REUTERS

Starmer survives House probe

▸ Embattled UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Tuesday survived a bid by opposition politicians to subject him to a parliamentary probe over his controversial appointment of Peter Mandelson as envoy to the US, AFP reports from London.

Members of Parliament voted against referring Starmer to a committee to consider whether he misled Parliament over appointing Mandelson, a former associate of late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, to the plum diplomatic post. It is the latest development in an unrelenting scandal that has plagued Starmer's Labour government for months. After a debate lasting more than five hours, 335 lawmakers voted against launching an investigation, compared with 223 in favour.

Court rejects US detention policy

▸ A federal appeals court on Tuesday rejected the Trump administration's practice of subjecting most people arrested in its immigration crackdown to mandatory detention without the opportunity to seek release on bond, Reuters reports.

A three-judge panel of the New York-based 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that President Donald Trump's administration had adopted a novel but incorrect interpretation of a decades-old immigration law to support a mass detention policy. The ruling came after two other appeals courts reached the opposite conclusion, overturning decisions that had favoured detainees denied bond hearings before immigration judges. The differing decisions increase the likelihood that the US Supreme Court will weigh in. US Circuit Judge Joseph Bianco, writing for the court, acknowledged the other appellate rulings but said the panel was parting ways with them.

One of the two men suspected of being Islamic State supporters, who were planning an attack on Taylor Swift's Vienna concert in 2024, attends a court session in Wiener Neustadt, Austria, on Tuesday. REUTERS

Iran's Guards seize wartime power, blunting Supreme Leader's role

Mojtaba elevated, but reduced to assent, not command

DUBAI, REUTERS

Two months into a war with the US and Israel, Iran no longer has a single, undisputed clerical arbiter at the pinnacle of power — an abrupt break with the past that may be hardening Tehran's stance as it weighs renewed talks with Washington.

Since its creation in 1979, the Islamic Republic has revolved around a supreme leader with final authority on key matters of state. But the killing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on the first day of the war, and the elevation of his wounded son, Mojtaba, have ushered in a different order dominated by commanders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, marked by the absence of a decisive, authoritative referee.

Mojtaba Khamenei remains at the apex of the system, but three people familiar with internal deliberations say his role is largely to legitimise decisions made by his generals rather than issue directives himself.

Wartime pressure has concentrated power within a narrower, more hardline inner circle rooted in the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), the Supreme Leader's office and the IRGC, which now dominates both military strategy and key political decisions, Iranian officials and analysts say. "The Iranians are painfully slow in their response," said a senior Pakistani government official briefed on peace talks between Iran and the US that Islamabad has been mediating. "There is apparently no single decision-making command structure. At times, it takes them two to three days to respond."

Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei. REUTERS FILE

Analysts said the obstacle to a deal is not internal infighting in Tehran, but the gap between what Washington is prepared to offer and what Iran's hardline Guards are willing to accept. The diplomatic face of Iran in the talks with the US has been Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, recently joined by parliament speaker Mohammed Baqer Qalibaf — a former Guards commander, Tehran mayor and presidential candidate — who has emerged during the war as a key conduit between Iran's political, security and clerical elites.

On the ground, however, the central interlocutor has been IRGC commander Ahmad Vahidi, according to a Pakistani and two Iranian sources, who identified him weeks ago as a pivotal figure, including on the night a ceasefire was announced.

Mojtaba, who was severely injured in the opening Israeli and US strike that killed his father and other relatives, has not appeared publicly and communicates through IRGC aides or limited audio links because of security constraints.

US examines latest Iran proposal

Efforts to end the West Asia war appeared at a standstill on Tuesday, with the US considering Tehran's latest offer to unblock the Strait of Hormuz, and Iran saying Washington could no longer dictate terms. CNN, however, reported that US President Donald Trump was unlikely to accept Iran's proposal to restore traffic in the strait.

US forces board ship suspected of heading to Iranian port

WASHINGTON, AFP: US Marines on Tuesday boarded a commercial ship in the Arabian Sea that was suspected of attempting to violate the American blockade of Iranian ports, the US military said.

The M/V Blue Star III was released by US forces "after conducting a search and confirming the ship's voyage would not include a call at an Iranian port", the Central Command, which is responsible for American forces in West Asia, said in a post on X. "American forces continue to operate and enforce the blockade across West Asia. So far, 39 vessels have been redirected to ensure compliance," the military command added.

The post included a video clip showing a helicopter hovering over the vessel as Marines roped down onto shipping containers stacked on its deck.

Tehran's forces effectively closed the vital Strait of Hormuz after the start of the US-Israeli air campaign against Iran on February 28.

Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth told reporters earlier this month that the blockade will last "as long as it takes", while top US military officer General Dan Caine said it "applies to all ships, regardless of nationality, heading into or from Iranian ports."

Nations launch global fossil fuel phaseout talks

SANTA MARTA (COLOMBIA), AFP

More than 50 nations gathered in Colombia on Tuesday launched the first global conference on phasing out fossil fuels, warning that the worldwide energy shock ignited by the West Asia war had underscored the risks of relying on oil, gas and coal.

Ministers and climate envoys aim to revive the transition from fossil fuels at the inaugural conference in Santa Marta, against a backdrop of crippling global energy shortages and soaring fuel prices.

"Let's make this a turning point in history," Colombia's Environment Minister Irene Velez Torres said as she opened the two-day talks.

The conference bypasses the United Nations climate talks and reflects growing impatience with their failure to tackle fossil fuels, the main driver of global warming.

Ministers said the volatility driven by the West Asia conflict also underscored the energy security imperative of shifting to renewables.

"We in Europe... are losing half a billion euros each day this war continues," the bloc's climate envoy Wopke Hoekstra told delegates in the coastal city.

CLIMATE ACTION

- Over 50 nations launched the first fossil fuel phaseout conference in Santa Marta
- Major emitters – United States, China and India – along with oil-rich Gulf states did not attend

"We already had a very good reason to move on (from fossil fuels) for climate action... We now also have it for commercial reasons, and reasons of independence."

The conference was announced late last year, but organisers say the West Asia war has bolstered the case for a fossil fuel phaseout.

Some governments are, however, weighing short-term increases in fossil fuel production to plug supply gaps. On the list of attendees are major fossil fuel producers Canada, Norway and Australia, as well as developing oil giants Nigeria, Angola and Brazil.

However, the world's biggest emitters of greenhouse gases — including the United States, China and India — are not attending, nor are oil-rich Gulf states. The conference is not expected to produce binding commitments.

Taiwan on alert after spotting Chinese warships near Penghu

TAIPEI, REUTERS: Taiwan has detected two Chinese warships operating in waters near the Penghu islands in the Taiwan Strait and has deployed its own naval and air forces to monitor the situation, the defence ministry in Taipei said.

China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, sends its warships and warplanes into the waters and skies around the island on an almost daily basis, to the condemnation of the Taiwanese government.

While Taiwan's defence ministry offers daily updates of the locations of Chinese military aircraft, it only rarely gives details of where Chinese warships are operating, generally only when it detects aircraft carriers, as happened last week.

Late Monday, the ministry said a Chinese destroyer and a frigate had entered waters to the southwest of the Penghu islands, home to major Taiwanese navy and air bases and close to the Taiwan side of the strait.

Ukraine accuses Israel over 'stolen grain' imports

KYIV, AP/PTI

Ukraine accused Israel on Tuesday of allowing the import of grain it says Russia stole from occupied areas, prompting a sharp exchange between officials.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said a vessel carrying grain had arrived at an Israeli port and was preparing to unload, calling the trade illegal and warning of sanctions against those involved.

Israel said the vessel had not entered the port and had not yet submitted its documents. The MarineTraffic.com tracking website showed the ship had been in Haifa for several days.

"In any normal country, purchasing stolen goods is an act that entails legal liability," Zelenskyy wrote on X, adding that Ukraine's intelligence services were preparing sanctions targeting companies and individuals profiting from the shipments. "We will also coordinate with European partners to ensure that the relevant individuals are included in European sanctions regimes," he said.

Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said the country's tax authority had opened an investigation into a ship expected to dock at Haifa port.

Saar dismissed Zelenskyy's comments as "Twitter diplomacy", telling a press conference in Jerusalem that Ukraine had not provided sufficient information or requested legal assistance.

Heorhii Tykhyi, a spokesman for Ukraine's Foreign Ministry, said Kyiv had informed Israeli authorities about the vessels in advance. He said more than two vessels had arrived in Israel carrying agricultural products Ukraine described as illegally taken by Russia from occupied Ukrainian land.

The ministry said it had summoned Israel's ambassador, Michael Brodsky, and handed him a note of protest over what it called a continuing flow of such shipments. It added that the origin of the grain had been established and that concealment methods, including ship-to-ship transfers in the Black Sea, were well known.

CREATIVE CONTENT FEE

Australia to tax Big Tech to fund newsrooms

MELBOURNE, AP/PTI

Australia has proposed taxing digital giants Meta, Google and TikTok a proportion of their revenue to fund journalism.

The government released draft legislation Tuesday it intends to introduce to Parliament by July 2 that would create a financial incentive for the social media companies to strike deals with news organisations to pay for journalism.

The platforms' criticisms included that the proposal was a "digital services tax" that misunderstood the evolving advertising industry and would fail to deliver a sustainable news sector.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said a monetary value needed to be attached to journalists' work.

"It shouldn't just be able to be taken by a large multinational corporation and used to generate profits for that organisation with no compensation appropriate for the people who produce that creative content," Albanese told reporters.

"We think that investment in journalism is critical to a healthy democracy," he added. It's Australia's second legislative attempt to make the platforms pay for the Australian news text and images that their users view. Digital platforms had been pressured to strike deals with Australian news publishers to pay for journalism by legislation passed in 2021 that created the country's News Media Bargaining Code.

The platforms chose to reach commercial deals with news creators rather than be forced into arbitration and have a judge set the price. But they have since avoided renewing those deals by removing news from their services.

The proposed News Bargaining Incentive would charge major platforms that choose not to strike commercial deals with news publishers a 2.25% tax on their Australian revenue.

The platforms would be given offsets and their overall costs would be lowered if they agree to pay publishers for journalism, the government said.

The government expects the incentive would raise between 200 to 250 million Australian dollars ($144 million-$179 million) a year. That was about as much as the platforms paid news outlets when the News Media Bargaining Code was working at its peak.

The government would distribute that income among news organizations based on how many journalists each organization employed, Communication Minister Anika Wells said.

The tax would apply to Meta Platforms, which owns Facebook and Instagram, Google, which is owned by Alphabet Inc., and TikTok, which is majority-owned by US-backed investors. Opposing the proposed legislation, Meta said news organisations "voluntarily post content on our platforms because they receive value from doing so."

Biz Bytes

Deepinder Goyal

Eternal Q4 net profit rises to Rs 174 crore

NEW DELHI, PTI: Eternal, which owns the Zomato and Blinkit, on Tuesday reported a multi-fold jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 174 crore for the fourth quarter, supported by higher revenue growth.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 39 crore a year ago, according to a regulatory filing.

Eternal Founder Deepinder Goyal, in a letter to shareholders, said the company took 18 years to achieve an annual net order value of $10 billion, but the doubling to $20 billion will take less than two years, and the company expects to "reach $1 billion of Adjusted EBITDA, hopefully by FY29".

Snabbit raises $56 million in funding

BENGALURU, DHNS: Quick home services platform Snabbit has raised $56 million in a Series D round, which was co-led by Susquehanna Venture Capital, Mirae Asset Venture Investments' Unicorn Growth Fund, and Bertelsmann India Investments, which is doubling down on its investment in the company.

The $56 million funding will be deployed to expand into new cities, while deepening density and leadership in existing markets.

Rupee falls 53 paise against US dollar

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee depreciated 53 paise to close at 94.68 against the US dollar on Tuesday, as elevated crude prices and unabated foreign capital outflows amid geopolitical uncertainties dented investor sentiment.

At the inter-bank forex market, the rupee opened at 94.35 against the dollar, then lost ground and settled at 94.68, falling 53 paise.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was up 0.24% at 98.73.

UAE leaves OPEC in major blow to global oil producers' group

Energy minister says his country didn't discuss matter with other countries

DUBAI, REUTERS

The United Arab Emirates said on Tuesday it was quitting the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), as an unprecedented energy crisis triggered by the Iran war exposes discord among Gulf nations.

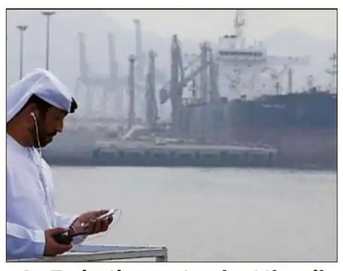
The loss of the UAE, a long-standing OPEC member, could create disarray and weaken the group, which has usually sought to show a united front despite internal disagreements over a range of issues from geopolitics to production quotas.

UAE Energy Minister Suhail Mohamed al-Mazrouei told Reuters that the decision was taken after a careful look at the regional power's energy strategies.

Asked whether the UAE consulted with OPEC's de facto leader, Saudi Arabia, he said the former did not raise the issue with any other country.

"This is a policy decision, it has been done after a careful look at current and future policies related to level of production," said the energy minister.

OPEC Gulf producers have already been struggling to ship exports through the Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint between Iran and Oman through which a fifth of the world's crude oil and LNG normally passes, because of Iranian threats and attacks against vessels.



An Emirati man stands at the oil terminal of Fujairah, the UAE. AFP

Mazrouei said the move, in which the UAE will also leave the OPEC+ grouping, would not have a huge impact on the market because of the situation in the strait.

Win for Trump

The UAE's exit from OPEC represents a win for US President Donald Trump, who in a 2018 address to the UN General Assembly accused the organisation of "ripping off the rest of the world" by inflating oil prices.

Trump has also linked US military support for the Gulf with oil prices, saying that while the US defends OPEC members, they "exploit this by imposing high oil prices".

The move came after the UAE, a regional business and financial hub and one of Washington's most-important allies, criticised fellow Arab states for not doing enough to protect it from numerous Iranian attacks during the war.

Anwar Gargash, the diplomatic adviser for the UAE president, criticised the Arab and Gulf response to the Iranian attacks in a session at the Gulf Influencers Forum on Monday.

"The Gulf Cooperation Council countries supported each other logistically, but politically and militarily, I think their position has been the weakest historically," Gargash said.

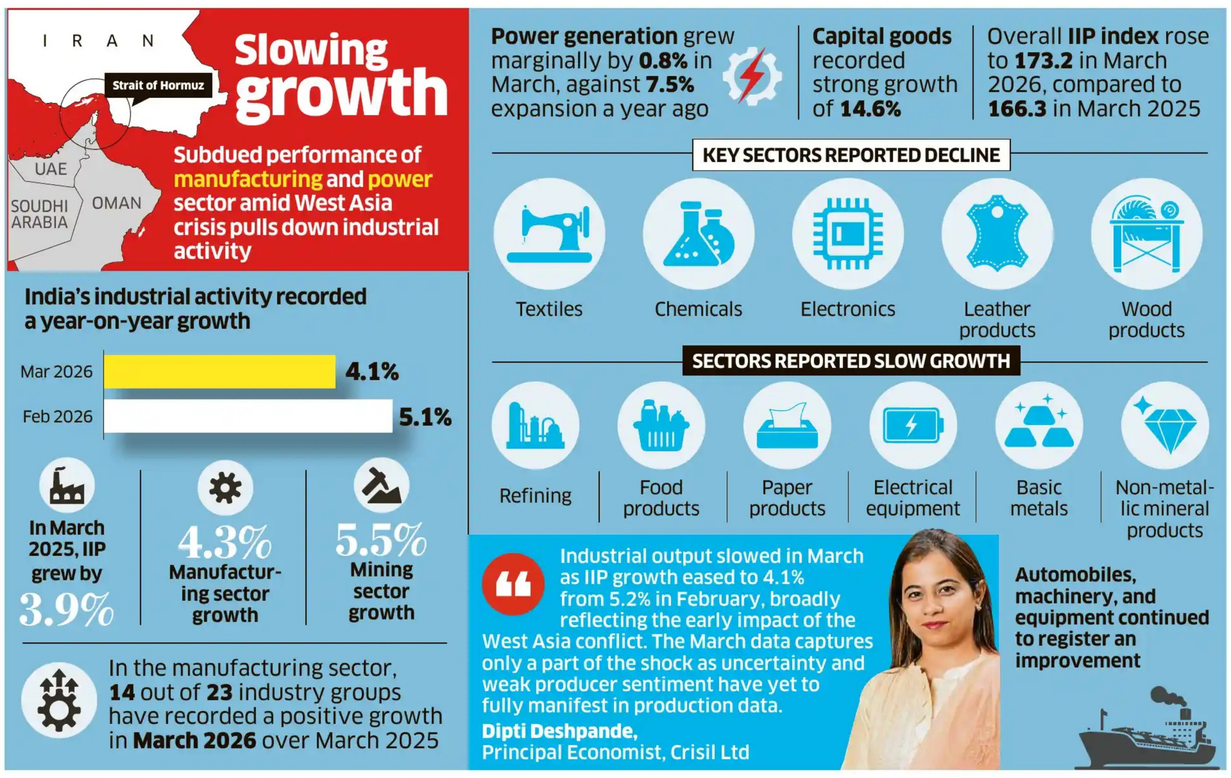
"I expect this weak stance from the Arab League and I am not surprised by it, but I haven't expected it from the (Gulf) Cooperation Council and I am surprised by it," he said.

Al-Mazrouei noted that the UAE has been a member of OPEC and OPEC+ for a long time, but he said the world would demand more energy, suggesting that his country's move will help meet those needs.

The UAE's exit comes as global spare capacity hovers at historically-low levels, leaving the oil market increasingly tight.

Operating outside the producer group allows the UAE to fully leverage its position as a supplier of some of the world's lowest-cost and lowest-carbon barrels.

Ultimately, the UAE views its exit from the bloc as a net positive for consumers and the broader global economy, ensuring a more responsive and reliable energy supply.


IRAN
Strait of Hormuz
UAE
SOUDHI ARABIA
OMAN
Slowing growth
Subdued performance of manufacturing and power sector amid West Asia crisis pulls down industrial activity
India's industrial activity recorded a year-on-year growth
Mar 2026
4.1%
Feb 2026
5.1%
In March 2025, IIP grew by 3.9%
4.3% Manufacturing sector growth
5.5% Mining sector growth
In the manufacturing sector, 14 out of 23 industry groups have recorded a positive growth in March 2026 over March 2025
Power generation grew marginally by 0.8% in March, against 7.5% expansion a year ago
Capital goods recorded strong growth of 14.6%
Overall IIP index rose to 173.2 in March 2026, compared to 166.3 in March 2025
KEY SECTORS REPORTED DECLINE
Textiles
Chemicals
Electronics
Leather products
Wood products
SECTORS REPORTED SLOW GROWTH
Refining
Food products
Paper products
Electrical equipment
Basic metals
Non-metallic mineral products
Industrial output slowed in March as IIP growth eased to 4.1% from 5.2% in February, broadly reflecting the early impact of the West Asia conflict. The March data captures only a part of the shock as uncertainty and weak producer sentiment have yet to fully manifest in production data.
Dipti Deshpande, Principal Economist, Crisil Ltd
Automobiles, machinery, and equipment continued to register an improvement

Industrial output growth slips to 5-month low

Stands at 4.1% in March, as conflict hits manufacturing

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's industrial production growth slowed to a five-month low of 4.1% in March, dragged down by the subdued performance of the manufacturing sector amid the West Asia conflict, as per official data released on Tuesday.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) revised its February 2026 industrial output growth data to 5.1% from its provisional estimate of 5.2% announced last month.

For the full year 2025-26, growth in factory output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), stood at 4.1%, which is marginally higher than the previous year's 4%.

While the March growth was the worst in five months, it was better than expectations.

Analysts said the full impact of supply-chain disruptions due to the US-Israel-Iran conflict was not reflected in the March IIP data.

"The March data captures only a part of the shock as uncertainty and weak producer sentiment have yet to fully manifest in production data. The deeper impact is expected to show up down the road, particularly in the first quarter of this fiscal," said Dipti Deshpande, Principal Economist, Crisil.

Manufacturing sector growth slipped to 4.3% in March, from 5.9% in the previous month. Export-oriented sectors such as textiles and electronics faced the twin impact of input cost pressures and global trade disruptions. Sectors, which are dependent on energy and chemical material supplies from West Asia, were among the worst-hit in March.

However, sustained strength in heavyweights such as automobiles and machinery supported headline IIP growth, driven by strong domestic demand.

Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist, CareEdge Ratings, said the manufacturing sector would continue facing headwinds from the uncertain external scenario. "Overall, the global economic landscape remains challenging amid the ongoing West Asia tensions and uncertainty around resolution of the conflict," she said.

"The lingering global risks and concerns around supply-chain disruptions are expected to pose a headwind for India's overall industrial activity. Looking ahead, the external volatilities could keep industrial activity under pressure, warranting some policy support," she added.

Subdued electricity output also weighed on the overall IIP growth in March. Power generation rose by only 0.8% in March, against 7.5% expansion recorded in the same month last year. Mining output growth improved to 5.5% in March, from 1.2% in the corresponding month of the previous year.

On the consumption front, growth in output of consumer durables slowed to 5.3% in March, from 7.1% in February, while the growth in non-durables output remained subdued at 1.1%.

Bengaluru dominates country's startup scene in Q1 2026

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru continues to lead the country's startup ecosystem with $823 million in funding across 89 deals in Q1 2026, IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge said in a post on X.

"In comparison, Delhi NCR recorded $538 million across 74 deals and Mumbai $402 million across 34 deals, underlining the clear gap in both capital flow and deal momentum," he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah also tweeted, saying that from deep tech to daily tech, Bengaluru remains at the heart of India's growth story.

Siddaramaiah

"Bengaluru today stands as the largest startup hub outside the US, Europe and China, and the 5th largest unicorn hub globally," Kharge added.

Recently, Tracxn, in its 'India Tech FY 2025-26' report, said the karnataka capital continues to lead in startup acquisitions in the country, topping the charts both in FY25 and FY26, with 58 and 34 acquisitions, respectively.

According to the report, Bengaluru maintains its position as the country's leading startup hub, as the city accounted for 33% of total funding — $3.9 billion, followed by Mumbai with 21% ($2.4 billion) of total funding.

Maruti Suzuki Q4 net profit falls 6.45% to Rs 3,659 crore

Net sales crosses Rs 50k-cr milestone for first time

NEW DELHI, PTI

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Tuesday reported a 6.45% decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 3,659 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026, due to mark-to-market (MTM) impact despite record vehicle sales.

The auto major had posted a net profit of Rs 3,911.1 crore in the same quarter of the preceding fiscal, MSI said in a regulatory filing.

The net profit declined primarily due to mark-to-market impact, the company said, adding that there was lower non-operating income, a notional loss due to a change in bond yields, which can be recovered at a later stage.

Its total revenue from operations inched up 28.2% to Rs 52,462.5 crore in the fourth quarter against Rs 40,920.1 crore in the same period of 2024-25, it added.

Net sales crossed the Rs 50,000-crore milestone for the first time in the fourth quarter, the company said.

Total expenses in the quarter under review were higher at Rs 48,125.3 crore, compared to Rs 37,585.5 crore in the year-ago period, the company said.

During the fourth quarter, the company said it recorded its highest-ever total quarterly sales of 6,76,209 units, up 11.8% from the year-ago period.

Domestic sales stood at 5,38,994 units and exports at an all-time high of 1,37,215 units, MSI said.

The board of directors has recommended a record dividend of Rs 140 per share for the year, compared to Rs 135 per share in 2024-25, it added.

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2026, its consolidated net profit grew slightly by 1.24% to Rs 14,679.5 crore against Rs 14,500.2 crore in the previous fiscal.

Total revenue from operations in FY26 was Rs 1,83,316 crore compared to Rs 1,52,913 crore in FY25, it added.

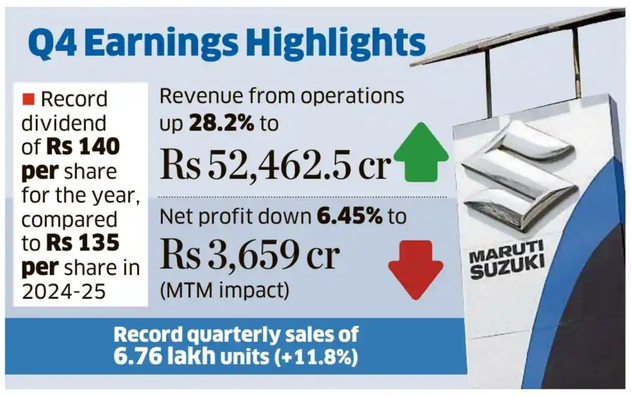
Total vehicle sales in FY26 were at a record 24,22,713 units against 22,34,266 units in FY25, the company said.

Domestic sales in FY26 stood at 19,74,939 units compared to 19,01,681 units in FY25, while exports were at 4,47,774 units against 3,32,585 units a year ago, it added.

This performance was due to a steep growth in the domestic market in the second half of the year, owing to the GST reduction, Maruti Suzuki said.

The company, however, said its sales were restricted by a limitation in the production capacity as evidenced by about 1.9 lakh pending customer orders at year's end, including nearly 1.3 lakh orders for small cars in the 18% GST bracket.

In addition, the dealer inventory was at a low of about 12 days' stock, it added.


Q4 Earnings Highlights
Record dividend of Rs 140 per share for the year, compared to Rs 135 per share in 2024-25
Revenue from operations up 28.2% to
Rs 52,462.5 cr
Net profit down 6.45% to
Rs 3,659 cr
(MTM impact)
Record quarterly sales of 6.76 lakh units (+11.8%)
MARUTI SUZUKI

Google breaks ground on $15-bn AI Hub in Visakhapatnam

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Tech giant Google on Tuesday officially broke ground on its landmark AI hub in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, as Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone, marking the start of construction on the company's largest investment in India's digital future so far.

First announced in October 2025, the project centres around India's first gigawatt-scale AI hub comprising three data centre campuses in the Visakhapatnam region. AdaniConnex and Nxtra by Airtel will lead construction of the data centre buildings and connecting infrastructure, enabling Google to deploy advanced AI capabilities and scale digital services across the country. Google plans to invest approximately $15 billion over five years to establish this comprehensive AI ecosystem in Vizag.

Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw hailed the development as a milestone. "The groundbreaking of the India AI Hub in Visakhapatnam reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making India a global technology leader. The hub and three subsea cables landing in Visakhapatnam will become critical national infrastructure. Thank you, Google, for your continued trust in India," he said.

The AI hub also encompasses the 'America-India Connect' initiative, an expanded fibre-optic network, along with a long-term clean energy strategy aimed at bringing new renewable supply to the electricity grid, in support of India's national goal of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.

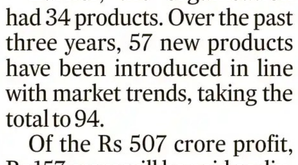
Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian described the occasion as a turning point. "Today's groundbreaking is a powerful realisation of our shared vision with the Indian government and an inflection point for the country's AI-native future. Together, we are laying the foundation for Viksit Bharat and opening new doors for economic opportunity nationwide," he stated.

Trade deficit with China up 155% in 5 yrs

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's trade relationship with China is becoming increasingly one-sided, with the trade deficit surging by 155% in five years, as imports more than doubled during the period, while exports struggle to recover.

During the financial year ended March 2026, India's imports from China rose to $131.6 billion, up from $65.2 billion in 2020-21. By contrast, India's exports to China in 2025-26 stood at $19.5 billion — still below the $21.2 billion in 2020-21.



India's trade deficit with China widened from $44 billion in 2020-21, to $112.1 billion in the fiscal year ending March 2026, an increase of 155% in five years.

"India's trade with China is no longer just a deficit story; it is a production-dependence story," said Global Trade Research Initiative Founder Ajay Srivastava. More worrying is the composition: 98.5% of imports from China are industrial goods, and four sectors — electronics, machinery, computers and organic chemicals — alone account for $82.6 billion, as per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics data for CY2025.

While China represents about 16% of India's total imports, its dominance is far more pronounced in industrial goods, where it supplies 30.8% of India's needs. The concentration within sectors is even sharper. About 66% of India's imports from China — valued at $82.6 billion — are clustered in electronics, machinery, computers, and organic chemicals.

China accounts for 43% of India's electronics imports, 40% of machinery and computer imports, and 44% of organic chemicals. These are not discretionary purchases, but core inputs that feed directly into India's manufacturing ecosystem, GTRI said.

"Indian industry relies heavily on Chinese inputs — electronics parts, EV batteries, solar modules, APIs and specialty chemicals — that are hard to replace at scale. As a result, even as India tries to grow exports, its supply chains remain tied to China," it said.

Infosys, Accenture lead LinkedIn list of top firms for career growth in India

NEW DELHI, PTI: IT major Infosys has emerged as the top company for career growth in India, followed by Accenture and Amazon, according to LinkedIn's '2026 Top Companies' list released on Tuesday.

The 10th edition of the annual list, which features 25 large companies, is dominated by technology powerhouses, global consulting firms, and financial giants. JPMorgan Chase and SAP secured the fourth and fifth positions, respectively.

The 2026 list witnessed 10 new entrants. Notable new additions include tech firms such as SAP, NVIDIA, HP, Microsoft, Sandisk, Marvell Technology, and Thomson Reuters.

Geographically, Bengaluru continues to lead as the prominent talent hub for these top companies.

Karnataka Soaps and Detergents registers Rs 2,016 crore turnover in FY26

BENGALURU, DHNS

State-owned Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) has recorded a turnover of Rs 2,016 crore in the financial year 2025-26, along with a profit of Rs 507 crore.

Making the announcement on Tuesday, Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil said that while it took the organisation 105 years to reach a turnover of Rs 1,000 crore, it doubled this figure to Rs 2,000 crore in just four years. From a turnover of Rs 1,375 crore in 2022-23, the company has grown to Rs 2,016 crore over the past three years.

Earlier, the organisation had 34 products. Over the past three years, 57 new products have been introduced in line with market trends, taking the total to 94.

Of the Rs 507 crore profit, Rs 157 crore will be paid as dividend to the government, and Rs 5 crore will be contributed to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

This marks an increase of Rs 22 crore in dividend, compared to the Rs 135 crore paid last year, he explained.

The organisation has set a target of achieving a turnover of Rs 3,000 crore by 2028, and Rs 5,000 crore by 2030. To support this growth, a new manufacturing unit will be established on 50 acres in Vijayapura, for which Rs 229 crore has been sanctioned, Patil added.

To ensure a steady supply of sandalwood oil, KSDL has launched the 'Grow More Sandalwood' initiative in partnership with farmers. Under this programme, sandalwood plantations will be developed over 10,000 acres in 10 years. Farmers will receive an incentive of Rs 500 per sapling over a period of three years.

KSDL Chairman CS Appaji Nadagouda said a team has already visited Australia and other countries to explore opportunities to expand its market. Plans would be prepared to enter markets in the UAE, with an aim to expand the company's presence in cosmetics and perfume segments, in addition to soaps, he noted.

KSDL Managing Director PKM Prashanth said that Rs 4.83 crore has been disbursed towards wage contracts for workers, while an additional Rs 20 crore has been spent on campus conservation.

Grounded, astute Siddhesh ready to spread his wings

Vimanapura Sports Club's 14-year-old hoopster aims to represent India at the highest level

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

A school kid's life in India, more often than not, revolves around playing various sports, while the emphasis leans towards their academic commitments.

Siddhesh Rajamuniasamy's early schooling was also on similar lines, shifting between football, badminton and athletics, while excelling in academics.

"When Siddhesh was at Vydehi School of Excellence, he was very fortunate. The sports events there gave him a huge platform," mother Niraimathi tells *DH*.

At a time when sports were just about "participation rather than winning", it did not take long for Siddhesh's athleticism to come to the fore, helping him stand out from other kids, which in turn, pushed him to lean towards taking sports seriously.

"Siddhesh was tall for his age. During sports day, he won different competitions and was awarded the best athlete award."

However, basketball was never a central theme in Siddhesh's life. And then he met coach Abdul Ajies. From then on, basketball has become an integral part. "I found Siddhesh when he was in grade one with high energy and great maturity, giving me hope that one day he will shine in basketball," said Abdul.

However, for a young Siddhesh, it was a little too much to take at the time.

"When Abdul saw something in him, the training got really rigorous and he was put into professional practice. But he could not take it and then shifted towards football. Once Covid hit, he was completely off sports," Niraimathi adds.

Having rekindled a bit of love for basketball, Siddhesh's father Rajamuniasamy enrolled him at Pitch Academy and it did not take long for the compliments to come.

Siddhesh swiftly progressed and started to hog the limelight while he dribbled the ball on the court. That's when he was introduced to Vimanapura Sports Club by the then Chrysalis High School sports co-ordinator Ganesh Selvaraj.

Siddhesh was also lucky, Niraimathi says, that Captain GRL Prasad took him under his wing for extra guidance. And she recalls that conversation vividly.

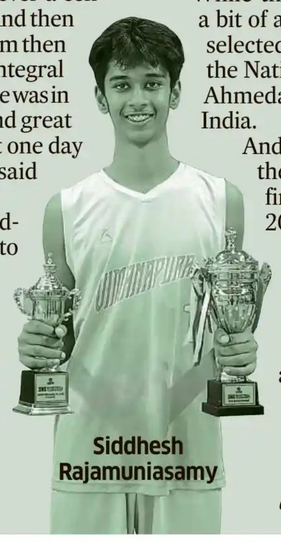
"For extra practice, Siddhesh was under Prasad at Lakshyan. To have an Indian coach help us, it took us by surprise. He also registered for a high-performance batch and that is when the career started to take off.

That is when everything changed. Vimanapura were crowned state champions and Siddhesh was awarded the MVP. Following an impressive showing, the Karnataka camp came calling and then he was picked for the State.

While the Dehradun nationals were a bit of a reality check, Siddhesh was selected for an assessment camp at the National Centre of Excellence in Ahmedabad by Sports Authority of India.

And a few months later, he was in the All-Stars NBA juniors side, finishing as runners-up among 200 schools. While there has been a rapid rise, the dream does not end there.

"The goal is to represent India at the highest level. The next goal is to win the nationals and the junior NBA and play for India in the U-16 category," Siddhesh says.


Siddhesh Rajamuniasamy

For feedback, email to dhsports@deccanherald.co.in

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Atletico feel the nerves

Rojiblancos take on unbeaten Arsenal in semifinal first leg

MADRID, AGENCIES

Atletico Madrid captain Koke admitted his nerves are jangling ahead of Wednesday's Champions League semifinal clash with Arsenal.

The veteran midfielder will lead out the Rojiblancos for the first leg battle against Mikel Arteta's Premier League leaders, with Atletico back in the final four of the competition for the first time since 2017.

"When the date draws near, your stomach is in knots, like when you have a first date with the girl you like," Koke told reporters on Tuesday.

"Once you start warming up, it all goes away. You play with the excitement of playing a semifinal."

Koke, 34, played in both of Atletico's Champions League final defeats by rivals Real Madrid in 2014 and 2016, with his club desperate to win the trophy for the first time in their history.

Despite his age, Koke said he was not thinking about this potentially being his last chance at winning the trophy.

"I don't feel it like that -- I'm enjoying this season a huge amount, you don't get to the Champions League semis every year," explained Koke.

Atletico Madrid's veteran players, striker Antoine Griezmann (right) and midfielder Koke, will be looking to turn the clock back when they take on Arsenal in the Champions League semifinal on Wednesday. REUTERS

LIVE 12:30 AM, SONY SPORTS

"I've had the luck that this is the fourth semi-final I'll be able to play... I don't know if I'll play another one, but I know that I will enjoy it like I did the others."

Koke will be without midfield partner Pablo Barrios after a thigh injury ruled him out for the next month.

"It's not just me who will miss him, but the whole team, he's a hugely important player for us," said the Spain international.

Atletico coach Diego Simeone, celebrating his 56th birthday on Tuesday, said he had no special wishes in mind.

"I just have pure gratitude, I have the chance to be with my (family)... I'm not in a position to ask for absolutely anything, just to be thankful and enjoy what comes to me in this life," said Simeone.

The coach, who has led Atletico for over 14 years, does not believe his team are owed anything despite their misfortune in the Champions League, including last year's elimination by Real Madrid after Julian Alvarez's penalty was controversially disallowed for a supposed double touch.

United inch closer to CL

Manchester United moved within touching distance of qualifying for the Champions League as Casemiro and Benjamin Sesko sealed a 2-1 win against Brentford on Monday, reports AFP from Manchester.

Casemiro put United ahead in the early stages of the fixture at Old Trafford and Sesko doubled their lead before the interval.

Ayra stars in Beagles BC win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ayra notched up 22 points while team-mate Anidhya scored 10 more as Beagles BC thrashed Bangalore Sporting 55-12 in the State Sub-junior (U-13) Basketball Championship for boys and girls for the BS Narayan Memorial Trophy at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Tuesday.

LOCAL BASKETBALL

Results: Boys: PPC: 67 (Daiwik 34, Dhawaki 13, Narrun 12) bt Mount Club: 27 (Sudhanva P 13, Surathoti N 10). HT: 25-11; Bharath SU: 61 (Amit 17, Virat 10) bt Dharwad A: 43 (Nagaraj 19). HT: 22-31.
Girls: Bangalore Vanguards: 43 (Aarushi 21) bt Mysore A: 35 (Nirikksha 13). HT: 15-14; PPC: 31 (Harshitha 20) bt Dharwad B: 17. HT: 10-10; Hebbal BC: 28 (Shruthi 17) bt Mysore B: 18. HT: 14-11; Beagles BC: 55 (Ayra 22, Anidhya 10) bt Bangalore Sporting: 12. HT: 28-4; Vivek's SC: 41 (Anantha 10, Shreshta 9) bt BCYA: 9. HT: 24-4.

Rocket Rod for main event

DELHI SELECTION

R Kumar-trained Rocket Rod, to be ridden by Vishal, is favoured to win the Urban Gallop Plate, the feature event on Wednesday. The first race starts at 03:30 pm.

1. Turbo Track Plate 1200M: Nizbati Malang 1; Girl Power 2; Striking Distance 3.
2. Velocity Vibe Plate (Div I) 1000M: Insta Millionaire 1; Bread N Butter 2; Big Bang 3.
3. Velocity Vibe Plate (Div II) 1000M: Dashing Harry 1; Jet Thunder 2; Lakshya Veer 3.
4. Metro Derby Plate - 1100M: Bahadur 1; Yakutsk 2; Salam Bhai 3.
5. Urban Gallop Plate - 1400M: Rocket Rod 2; Divit 2; Rinku Romeo 3.
6. Neon Speed Plate -1400M: Heer 1; Lady Danger 2; Ashwa Denali 3.
Day's best: Bahadur.
Jackpot: 2,3,4,5 & 6. **Treble:** 4,5,6.

Rivansh 6/9 flattens Engrades

BENGALURU, DHNS

Rivansh Mohapatra dismantled the batting line-up of Engrades Cricket Club with bowling figures of 6/9 as Chintamani Sports Association ran victors by eight wickets in the KSCA U-16 Inter-Club tournament here.

Brief score: Chintamani: 94 all out in 32.1 overs (Sriman Pratyush Reddy 2-15, Rivansh Mohapatra 6-9) lt to Engrades: 97/2 in 14 overs (Samvit Shastri 34, Sriganesh M 32).
Yankees: 253 all out in 42.5 overs (Miraan Mahajan 82, Advik Srinivas 56, Nadavala Srinivas Charvik 25 n.o.; Syed Ayyan Fareez 2-57, Reet Agrawal 2-57, Syed Muhammad Syed Hussaini 4-32) bt Jayanagar Cricketers: 185 all out in 37 overs (Mohammed Hasnain Nihan 29, Syed Muhammad Ayaanullah Hussaini 66, Pranjal Kumar 29; Shrevin Das 3-36, Advik Srinivas 4-29).
Mount Joy: 148 all out in 38.3 overs (Avik Jha 45, Rudraraj Das 30, Ibrahim Khan 4-24, Hari Om Ojha 2-18) lt to Jawans: 151/4 in 34 overs (M Kanishk Reddy 64, RK Jishnu Singh 29, Avik Jha 2-16).
City Gymkhana: 355/4 in 50 overs (Pushkar S 39, Arnav N Manchale 141, Siddharth HS 87, Vedant Shaurya 53 n.o.; S Nikith Harsha 2-56) bt Wilson Garden: 82 all out in 27.2 overs (Tejas Bhat 3-15, Hemanth Chandra Shekar 5-17).
Sangam: 86 all out in 21.4 overs (Vinjamuri Rushyanth 5-31, Lakshmi Sai Nihal 3-20) lt to Social Cricketers: 89/3 in 15.1 overs (Athreya Bhat 51 n.o.; Roopesh V Gowda 2-16).
Sir Syed Cricketers: 154 all out in 47.3 overs (Suraj Kumar A 46, Samhith S Dixit 39; Vishal Reddy SV 3-17, Sanchith Krishna Hanagud 5-35) lt to Palar: 156/5 in 30.2 overs (Chayaank Pradeep 30, Bhofinn Sanjeevareddy 33 n.o., SK Sharath 25 n.o., Syed Abbas 3-38).
Bangalore United (1): 303 all out in 47.4 overs (SM Bhavith 51, Aarav Bajaj 31, B Amol Pai 36, Vijay Hanumanthappa 64; Thaman Sai M 2-36, Parthiv Kashyap V 2-20) bt Freelancers: 172 all out in 41.3 overs (KN Nipun Devaiah 65, Thaman Sai M 42, Aarav Bajaj 2-41, SM Bhavith 5-19).
Whirlwind Cricketers: 265/9 in 50 overs (Suyog Gowda S 91, Sidharth Nayaka N S 39, Saket Chandramouli 38 n.o., Krishav Mutreja 2-36, Tejas Mukund 3-48) bt Bangalore Occasionals: 189/8 in 50 overs (SM Diyan Afsar 41, Yandapalli Deveshwar Reddy 32, Tejas Mukund 27 n.o.; Bhuvan Shekhar Gowda 3-44, Saket Chandramouli 2-17).
Neptune: 163/8 in 50 overs (Srinath Seshadri 54, Srijesh Parthiban 40; Jeevan 3-29, M Neeraj 4-22) lt to Rajajinagar Cricketers: 164/2 in 22.4 overs (Prabhav Pydah 79 n.o., Debraj Nandi 31).
Jawahar (1): 267 all out in 49.4 overs (Amey 31, Cheran Tej Raju C 135, Ayush YS 32, Rutwik Mesta 3-51, Chirag A 3-40) bt Jawahar (2): 142 all out in 34.1 overs (Nikhil G Chethan 54; Ayush YS 4-44, M Shreyas 3-19).
Johnson:175 all out in 39.1 overs (Divyam Kumawat 46; Mohammed Owais Sayed 2-25, Hruday Haran S 2-27, Harshith Raja 2-28) lt to South End: 176/7 in 29.3 overs (Arya Naveen 46, Rajdeep Banerjee 3-43, Shriyans Mohanty 2-30).

Sinner surges into Madrid Open quarters; Ruud beats Tsitsipas

MADRID, AFP: Jannik Sinner (**in pic**) suggested the Madrid Open organisers should reconsider their tournament scheduling to avoid late-night finishes like the one Rafael Jodar experienced in the third round on Sunday.

Sinner moved past British 19th seed Cameron Norrie 6-2, 7-5 to reach the quarter-finals.

Casper Ruud fought back from the brink to keep his title defence alive with a 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/3) victory over former finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Sinner explained he was put on first on Manolo Santana Stadium so that Jodar, his potential next opponent, would be scheduled in the afternoon to give the Spaniard time to recover from his three-set win over Joao Fonseca that ended at 1:00 am on Monday morning.

In his first-ever meeting with Norrie, Sinner won 81 percent of his first-serve points, and 63 percent of the points behind his second delivery on his way to notching a 25th consecutive victory at the Masters 1000 level.

Later in a high-quality three-hour contest, Tsitsipas led 5-3 in the decider, holding two match points, and served for the victory at 5-4, but Ruud, who was 0/11 in break points up until then, found a way to take down the Greek's serve and went on to clinch the tie-break.

Last week's Barcelona champion Arthur Fils advanced to the quarter-finals at the Caja Magica with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Argentine 25th seed Tomas Martin Etcheverry.

Fils has made the quarter-finals in six of the seven tournaments he has contested so far in 2026.

The Frenchman will take on Jiri Lehecka, who beat sixth-seeded Italian Lorenzo Musetti 6-3, 6-3, for a place in the last four.

In WTA action, ninth-seeded Mirra Andreeva gave herself an early birthday gift, defeating Canadian Leylah Fernandez 7-6(7/1), 6-3 to reach her first Madrid semifinal.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation And Ground Water Development Division, Ballari
IFT No. EE/MI& GWDD/Bly/AE-2/2026-27/250
Date :23-04-2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-4)
On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division Ballari invited the tender for the work of under **Head for Account 4702 Plan APB,(KKRDB)** 01 work in Hosapete & Harapanahalli Taluk,VijayanagaraDist in TwoCover System **Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.1126.86 lakhs.** the tenderers should download and submitt the tenders from**date :23.04.2026 to 02.05.2026 up to17.30 hours. Date & Time of opening Technical Bidis on 05.05.2026 at 11.00 hours. Opening of Financial Bid is on 07.05.2026 at 11.00 hours.** Anyother information shouldget by login the website **"KPPP"** http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/98

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER- 3rd Call
(only through KPP-Portal)
BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 009

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
West-3	BWSSB/EEW-3/TO/PB/41/2026-27 Date:22.04.2026	Rs. 37,99,131/- / Rs. 76,000/-	06.05.2026 Upto 4.00 P.M.	07.05.2026 after 4.30 P.M.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-3)
The details regarding the tender & participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/DD-C.P/395/KSMCA/2026-27

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, 12th Main, 11th Cross, West of chord road, Bengaluru West City Corporation, Bengaluru
No: EE/MLP/TEND/E-PROC/01/2026-27 Date: 28-04-2026
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) NOTIFICATION
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, (Mahalakshmipuram) Division for the Services mentioned below under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 through electronic two cover tendering system (K-Procurement) in prescribed format from registered agency is with I.T, E.S.I, P.F, Labour Department and other statutory authority of Government of Karnataka Organizations.

Sl No.	Name of the Work
1.	To maintain Operation, supervision and maintenance of the Dr|| Rajkumar Indoor Stadium And Auditorium located at Mico Layout in **Ward No-49** Nagapura in Good Condition. Indent No: **BWCC/2025-26/SE0064/CALL-2** Estimated Revenue Generation for 5 years : **₹. 70,61,700.00 EMD: ₹. 1,41,500.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded in the KPP portal from **30-04-2026** at **4:30** pm onwards (2) Last Date & Time for Queries **05-05-2026** at **3:00** pm. (3) Pre-Bid Meeting at the office of Chief Engineer, RR Nagara, Zone-1 on **05-05-2026** at **3:30** pm. (4) Last Date for submission of tender document **13-05-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (5) Opening of Technical Bid is **14-05-2026** at **4:30** pm. (6) Opening of Financial Bid Based on the approval of Technical bid financial bid will be opened
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Mahalakshmipuram Division

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal)
BESCOM invites tender for the following Enquiry No.: **BESCOM/2026-27/ IND0251,** Procurement of Coyote Conductor.
For the above Work: Bid documents available from **30-04-2026** Onwards. Last Date for submission is **30-05-2026** at **17:00** hrs. Opening of Bid Document is **02-06-2026** at **11:00** hrs.
The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777, 09240214000 & 09240214001) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.
For electricity related complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP
Sd/-
Chief General Manager(Ele.,)
Procurement, BESCOM

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.
No: EE/PWD/HSN/AE-3/2026-27/ DATED: 27.04.2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 06/2026-27, Dated: 27.04.2026
Tender is invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD and the contractors belonging to Category-2(A) shall be domicile of the State of Karnataka for more than 10 years. 2nd call of tender is invited through E-Procurement for total Number of 05 Works under PWD Hassan Division. In that 01 work is reserved for category-2(A) contractors. The minimum estimated amount is Rs.15.00 Lakhs and maximum estimated amount is Rs.200.00 Lakhs. The amount mentioned in tender notification is sanctioned estimated cost, but EMD & class of contractor is considered based on amount put to tender which excludes GST & other charges. Last date & time for receipt of tender is on 07.05.2026 @ 16.00 hours. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD,
Hassan Division, Hassan.
ಬಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/70/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division, 3rd Main Road, 1st Floor, Shasakara Bhavana, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040
No.: EE(VJN)/TEND/KPPP/01/2026-27 Date: 28.04.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Single Cover System) (Through GOK KPPP Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites Standard tender documents KW-1 from eligible tenderers registered in BWCC/BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD or any State Government Organisations for the execution of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
	(Two Cover System) (KW-1)
1	Establishment of temporary mansoon control room in Vijayanagara Sub division (Ward No. 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88 & 89). **Est. Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): 17.50, Amount put to tender in Lakhs: 17.47, EMD Amount Rs.: 43,675.00, Category: Others.**
2	Establishment of temporary mansoon control room in Gali Anjaneya Temple Sub division (Ward No. 82, 90, 91, 92, 93 & 94). **Est. Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): 15.00, Amount put to tender in Lakhs: 14.99, EMD Amount Rs.: 37,475.00, Category: Others.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP Portal from: **29.04.2026, 4:30 p.m.** onwards. **(2)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **08.05.2026** upto **4:30 p.m. (3)** Date and time of opening tender on **11.05.2026** at **11:00 a.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Vijayanagar), BWCC, Zone-2

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division, 3rd Main Road, 1st Floor, Shasakara Bhavana, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040
No.: EE(VJN)/TEND/KPPP/01/2026-27 Date: 28.04.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Single Cover System) (Through GOK KPPP Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites Standard tender documents KW-1 from eligible tenderers registered in BWCC/BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD or any State Government Organisations for the execution of works detailed in the table below.

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Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP Portal from: **29.04.2026, 4:30 p.m.** onwards. **(2)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **08.05.2026** upto **4:30 p.m. (3)** Date and time of opening tender on **11.05.2026** at **11:00 a.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Vijayanagar), BWCC, Zone-2

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಜಿಗಣಿ
ಜಿಗಣಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560105.
ದೂ: 080–29760400, E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_jigani@yahoo.com, jiganideo@gmail.com
ಸಂ:ಜಿ.ಪು.ಕಾ/ತಾಂ.ಶಾ/ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ/09/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.04.2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)
ಜಿಗಣಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿಗಳು ಕೊರೆಯುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಮಾರ್ಗ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಪೈಪ್‌ಲೈನ್ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಮತ್ತು ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ದುರಸ್ಥಿಪಡಿಸುವ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ / ಬೆಸ್ಕಾಂ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸ ಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ
1	DMA/2026-27/ WS/WORK_INDENT56994
2	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57073
3	DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT56997
4	DMA/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT57013
5	DMA/2026-27/ WS/WORK_INDENT57008
6	DMA/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT57017

1. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.05.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್). 15.05.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್).** 2. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.05.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್). ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.05.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ (ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್).** 3. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.05.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4:000 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸ ಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 4. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–29760400 ಇಮೇಲ್:itstaff_ulb_jigani@yahoo.com. 5. ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಅನುದಾನದ ಲಭ್ಯತೆಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಬಿಲ್ಲನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. 5. **ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 01,02,03,05 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 04 ಮತ್ತು 06 ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್.**
ಸಹಿ/–
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು,
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಜಿಗಣಿ
ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಜಿಗಣಿ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜಿಎ/391/2026–27

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED
Office of the Project Engineer-01, No.30/1, 3rd Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Miller Tank Bund Area, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru-560 052.
No:B-SMILE/PE-01/TEND/03/2026-27 Date: 27-04-2026
(REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL)
(Two Cover System) Through KPP Portal only
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
The Government of Karnataka has constituted "Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited" (B-SMILE) for implementation of Specific Infrastructure works in the city of Bengaluru. On behalf of the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B- SMILE), The Project Engineer-01 invites proposals from **Project Management Consultants** who have relevant experience in doing works of similar nature for Project Management works from registered firms / agencies/ Individuals.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Project Management Consultancy (PMC) and proof checking consultancy service for "Construction of Elevated Rotary Flyover at IOC Junction and Construction of additional 2 Lane ROB at Baiyyappanahalli Railway Level Crossing" on Lumpsum, Turnkey with allowable Price Escalation basis. **Project Cost ₹ Lakhs : 29400.00, Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) (Including GST Charges) : 294.00, EMD @ 1% of APT: ₹ 2,94,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Availability of Tender documents from **: 29.04.2026 at 4:30 p.m. onwards (2)** Pre bid meeting on : **06.05.2026 at 4:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders: **12.05.2026 upto 4:00 p.m. (4)** Date & Time for Opening of Technical bid: **13.05.2026 at 11:30 a.m. (5)** Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid: **(Will be intimated after obtaining approval for Technical Evaluation.**
Sd/- Project Engineer-01, BSIL.

"It does feel things are very skewed in the batter's favour. Whether the pitches, the impact player rule, or the skill set of the batters are just very high.

JAMES FRANKLIN
SRH ASSISTANT COACH

Pankaj Advani

Advani faces champ Kothari in final again

BENGALURU, DHNS: For the second straight year, the final of the IBSF World Billiards Championship will be an all-Indian affair. In a repeat of last year's title clash, champion Sourav Kothari will take on Pankaj Advani in Carlow, Ireland.

In the semifinals on Tuesday morning, Advani outclassed England's Robert Hall 1184-420 to make his ninth straight finale. At the adjacent table, Kothari rallied to score a come-from-behind 633-443 victory over Dhvaj Haria.

For a brief period early in the encounter, both Advani and Hall were a trifle tentative -- perhaps the pressure of a big match played a role. Advani then fired the first salvo with a gritty 129, but Hall, a runner-up two years ago, made runs of 54, 73 and 104 to go up 279-255 in the 150-minute affair.

When the Englishman missed a red in-off to the centre pocket, Advani got off his chair in a jiffy and made capital of the easy leave. He gathered the balls at the top of the table in double quick time and showcased his repertoire. The break seemed to purr along like Rolls Royce until he lost position following a red in-off to the top right-hand pocket when on a break of 299.

Results (Indians unless mentioned): Semifinals: Pankaj Advani: 1184 (129, 299, 217, 153, 68) bt Robert Hall (Eng): 420 (54, 73, 104); Sourav Kothari: 633 (94, 165, 85, 68, 125) bt Dhvaj Haria: 443 (268, 75, 53).

India make a rousing start in World Team TT

LONDON, PTI: The Indian men's team made a strong start to its campaign at the World Team Table Tennis Championships with a convincing 3-0 win over Tunisia, while the women's side was awarded a walkover here on Tuesday.

Manush Shah, Manav Thakkar and Harmeet Desai registered impressive wins for India. Shah got the team off to a steady start, defeating Essid Wassim 3-1 (11-5 9-11 11-3 11-5) before Thakkar and Desai picked up identical 3-0 wins.

World No 38 Thakkar then extended the lead, overwhelming Yousef Aidli 11-3 11-3 11-3 in a one-sided contest. Desai wrapped up the tie with a composed display, beating Aboubaker Bourass 11-5 11-4 11-8 to seal a comprehensive win for the Indian side.

Placed in Group 7 of Stage 1B, the result has propelled the Indian men's team to the top of the standings in a group that also features Slovakia and Guatemala.

Earlier in the day, the Indian women's team received a 3-0 walkover after Uganda failed to report for the tie.

Like the men, the women's side is also competing in Stage 1B of the tournament.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: Mumbai Indians vs Sunrisers Hyderabad **(7:30 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

CL semis: Atletico Madrid vs Arsenal **(12:30 am, Thursday). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

BADMINTON

Thomas & Uber Cup: Group Stage **(1:30 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2, JioHotstar.**

Royals Raj over Punjab Kings

Donovan, Shubham dig in deep to hand PBKS first defeat of the season

MULLANPUR, PTI

Donovan Ferreira's audacious stroke-play handed Punjab Kings the bitter pill of defeat for the first time in this edition of IPL as Rajasthan Royals cantered home by six wickets in a high-octane chase here on Tuesday.

Chasing a target of 223, Rajasthan Royals needed 71 off the last six overs when Ferreira smashed his way to an unbeaten 52 off 26 balls in company of an unheralded Shubham Dubey (31 not out off 12 balls) to clinch the victory with four balls to spare.

Ferreira was brilliant while picking his areas as PBKS troika of Arshdeep Singh (1/68 in 4 overs), Lockie Ferguson (0/57 in 4 overs) and Marco Jansen (0/41 in 3.2 overs) would like to forget this day in a hurry.

Rajasthan Royals' Donovan Ferreira (right) hugs team-mate Shubham Dubey after a successful run-chase of 223 against Punjab Kings in Mullanpur on Tuesday. AFP

SCOREBOARD

PUNJAB KINGS: Prabhsimran Singh c Parag b Punja 59, Priyansh Arya c Burger b Archer 29, Cooper Connolly c Ferreira b Punja 30, Shreyas Iyer c Jurel b Burger 30, Marcus Stoinis (not out) 62, Suryansh Shedge (not out) 3. Extras (B-4 LB-4 W-1) 9. **TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 20 overs) 222.**

Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-96, 3-144, 4-181.

Bowling: Jofra Archer 4-0-40-1, Nandre Burger 4-0-59-1, Brijesh Sharma 4-0-42-0, Yash Raj Punja 4-0-41-2, Ravindra Jadeja 4-0-32-0.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS: Yashasvi Jaiswal c Shedge b Chahal 51, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi c Iyer b Singh 43, Dhruv Jurel c Jansen b Chahal 16, Riyan Parag c Shedge b Chahal 29, Donovan Ferreira (not out) 52, Shubham Dubey (not out) 31. Extras (B-1 NB-1 W-4) 6. **TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 19.2 overs) 228.**

Fall of wickets: 1-51, 2-105, 3-123, 4-151.

Bowling: Arshdeep Singh 4-0-68-1, Lockie Ferguson 4-0-57-0, Marco Jansen 3.2-0-41-0, Harpreet Brar 4-0-25-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-36-3.

Result: RR won by 6 wkts

PoM: Donovan Ferreira

Between Ferreira and Dubey, they hit nine fours and five sixes as they undid all the good work done by Yuzvendra Chahal (3/36 in 4 overs).

The manner in which Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (43 off 16 balls) started with a deluge of sixes -- five -- including a couple of flicked maximums off Arshdeep Singh and Lockie Ferguson, it seemed RR would make a meal of the chase.

Arshdeep was lucky that Sooryavanshi missed out on a sixth six when he mistimed a full-toss only for Shreyas Iyer to grab it with ease.

However, it was the wily Chahal who brought the Royals back in the game just when Yashasvi Jaiswal (51 off 27 balls) looked like slowly taking the game away in company of Dhruv Jurel (20 off 16 balls).

However, Jurel committed a hara-kiri, offering an easy skier off a full-toss but it was the manner in which Jaiswal and skipper Riyan Parag (29 off 16 balls) were taken out deserved more than honourable mention.

For both, the pace on the ball was considerably taken off and flighted outside the off-stump line without giving enough room to chance their arms. Both were holed out at long-off.

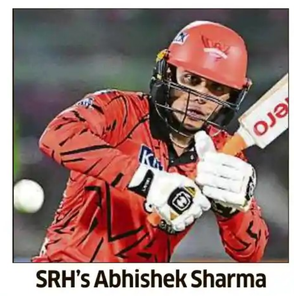
But then, Ferreira and Dubey had other ideas as Chahal's good work went down the drain.

Earlier, Stoinis muscled his way to a 20-ball half-century despite a gallant effort from young leg-spinner Yash Raj Punja as Punjab Kings posted a competitive 222 for 4 after being put into bat.

SRH look to heap more misery on MI

Five-time champs in desperate fight for survival

MUMBAI, PTI



SRH's Abhishek Sharma

LIVE 7:30 PM

Mumbai Indians will hope for a massive turnaround in fortunes against an in-form Sunrisers Hyderabad, with the five-time champion's campaign at stake in a crucial Indian Premier League clash here on Wednesday.

With five defeats in the first seven matches, and their most recent being their heaviest in history by margin of runs (103 vs Chennai Super Kings), Mumbai Indians (rank 9th, 4 points, NRR -0.736) have their backs firmly pressed against the wall in a season marred by no-shows from their top guns.

Comprising as many as four players from India's T20 World Cup-winning squad, MI's woes have been compounded by ordinary returns from skipper Hardik Pandya (3 wickets and 97 runs) and Suryakumar Yadav (110). Tilak Varma's maiden IPL hundred against Gujarat Titans did help MI snap a four-match losing streak, but their massive loss to CSK once again threw their faltering campaign in a tailspin.

MI also have had Jasprit Bumrah (2 wickets) languishing far behind. Usually preserved for breakthroughs in middle-overs and stifling oppositions at the death, Bumrah has uncharacteristically opened the attack for MI in the last two games since the other new-ball bowlers have failed to deliver.

SRH, meanwhile, will feel they are primed to end a three-match losing streak against MI.

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Punjab Kings	8	6	1	1	13	1.043
Royal Challengers	8	6	2	0	12	1.919
Rajasthan Royals	9	6	3	0	12	0.617
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	5	3	0	10	0.815
Gujarat Titans	8	4	4	0	8	-0.475
Chennai Super Kings	8	3	5	0	6	-0.121
Delhi Capitals	8	3	5	0	6	-1.060
Kolkata Knight Riders	8	2	5	1	5	-0.751
Mumbai Indians	7	2	5	0	4	-0.736
Lucknow Super Giants	8	2	6	0	4	-1.106

Anuj okay to play the waiting game

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Professional athletes enjoy quite a bit of luxury in their sporting careers. And the opulence only goes up a notch during the two-month long Indian Premier League carnival.

However, with the nature of the sport, one does not always have things go the way they plan it, and that is why assurance of game time is one luxury these cricketers don't enjoy.

For a certain 26-year-old Anuj Rawat, the IPL has been a mixture of great and forgettable moments.

While he came into the spotlight when Rajasthan Royals picked him for Rs 80 lakh during the 2020 auction, the coming-of-age was truly during his stint with Royal Challengers Bengaluru while on a Rs 3.4 crore contract.

Following that, he has blown hot and cold in the domestic scene and now finds himself at the back end of the pack, having not started a game since the 2024 edition after Gujarat Titans signed him for Rs 30 lakh.

While Anuj admitted the limited opportunities have been "frustrating" and "hard", the wicketkeeper-batter understands the importance of fighting for a spot in an IPL atmosphere.

"If I am honest, it is frustrating and hard sometimes," Anuj tells *DH*.

"But at the same time, as a cricketer, I feel it is very important to keep working hard. I definitely will take the (IPL journey so far) as a learning experience. It is just like how life goes. There will be ups and there will also be downs. And in the end, if the preparation is right, you will definitely end up on a high note."

Anuj also opened up on the conversations with the team management about his role clarity and expectations at the Titans.

"The conversations with the Gujarat Titans coaches have been about the role, and what I would play if I play. It has been very clear right from the start of the season and I've been working on it in my practice sessions as well."

While he has shown flashes of brilliance and was also a part of the Indian side for the T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2024, he insists that pushing for a national call-up is about not getting ahead of oneself and cashing in on the opportunity when it comes.

"I think I'm just waiting for my chance (IPL) because the preparation for me has been really good throughout the season. Because I know it is all about one season and excelling in that season."

Anuj, who has spent a good amount of time on the sidelines in the recent past, is wiser now to understand the fluctuations of elite sport.

"You just need to be in the present and not think about the future. Because if you think more about the future, the critics will hurt you. Or if you think more about your good times or the future, it can also definitely harm you."

"But for me now, it is to keep doing the things that is needed and prepare myself for the best thing."

Stressing the importance of adapting to the ever-evolving game, Anuj has been working hard with GT batting coach and Australian legend Matthew Hayden on his six-hitting skills.

"I've been asking only one thing to Hayden and it is about my power-hitting and range-hitting. Talking about the extension of my arms, how I can hit more sixes and longer sixes."

Having played just 24 matches in the Indian Premier League so far, Gujarat Titans' Anuj Rawat hopes to cash in on an opportunity when it comes. GT

MI await Rohit's availability

MUMBAI, PTI: For a batter who thrived in moving away from the game for a short while to find his way back to runs, it was a contrasting sight here on Tuesday as Suryakumar Yadav sweated it out in the nets on the eve of Mumbai Indians' IPL match against Sunrisers Hyderabad here.

While the Mumbai squad went on a two-day trip to Jamnagar, the players had hit the nets immediately upon return, which not only included Suryakumar but also former skipper Rohit Sharma, whose availability remains in doubt for the contest against SRH.

Out of action since April 12 when he walked off from the middle after picking up a hamstring injury during MI's home game against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Rohit remains on the comeback trail.

Uber Cup: India women crash out in group stage

HORSENS (DENMARK), PTI

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu squandered a strong position as India failed to capitalise on chances, going down 0-5 to China to end their campaign at the Uber Cup Finals here.

The Indian women's team had opened with a 2-3 loss to hosts Denmark before bouncing back with a 4-1 win over Ukraine.

China, the most successful team in Uber Cup history with 16 titles, was always going to be a formidable opponent, with India having lost to them three times in their last three major ties.

While Sindhu remained the leader of the group, Isharani Baruah and Devika Sihag were drafted in place of Unnati Hooda and Tanvi Sharma for the other two singles.

Sindhu raised hopes as she looked set for a statement win before letting slip an 18-12 lead in the decider to go down 16-21, 21-19, 19-21 to world No. 2 Wang Zhiyi in the opening singles, handing China a 1-0 lead in the must-win Group A tie on Monday.

China's Chen Yufei scored a dominant win over India's Isharani Baruah in the Uber Cup group stage match on Monday night. AFP FILE PHOTO

Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra were no match for world No. 1 pair Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning, losing 11-21, 8-21 in the first doubles.

Tasked with keeping the tie alive, Isharani Baruah produced a fast-paced display to trouble Tokyo Olympic champion Chen Yufei but left too many shuttles and committed errors at the net.

The world No. 38 Indian missed a sitter at 20-19 in the opening game as the world No. 4 Chinese eventually sealed a 22-20, 21-13 win in 44 minutes to give China an unassailable 3-0 lead. It was all over thereafter for India and they lost the remaining two ties too.

Indian lifters impress with four gold medals

NEW DEHI, PTI: Indian lifters impressed at the ongoing Commonwealth Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships and the corresponding Universal Cup (Senior) in Apia, Samoa, securing four gold medals on the second day of competition.

Sunil Singh lifted a total of 271kg (126kg in snatch and 145kg in clean and jerk) to clinch the gold in the 65kg men's category, while Aisangfa Gogoi won the top prize in women 58kg and Abhinob Gogoi bagged the yellow metal in men's 71kg division.

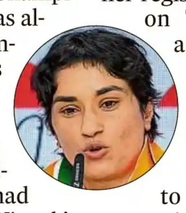
Aisangfa lifted a total of 185kg (79kg in snatch and 106kg in clean and jerk) to bag gold in the 58kg women's category, while Abhinob totalled 284kg (129kg in snatch and 155kg in clean and jerk) to secure top finish in the 71kg men's division.

In the Universal Cup, Arunachal Pradesh's Charu Pesi bagged the gold medal in the men's 65kg category.

Vinesh comeback gets green light amid row

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Decorated wrestler Vinesh Phogat **(in pic)** breathed a sigh of relief on Tuesday after the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) confirmed that the two-time World Championships medallist was already cleared to compete in next month's National Ranking Series.



WFI president Sanjay Singh clarified that the body had never objected to Vinesh's participation in the domestic tournament and contradicted reports of blocking her application for the event. The Ranking Series will take place in Gonda, UP, from May 10-12 and will mark her return since her retirement U-turn last year.

"We never blocked her request for any participation," the WFI chief told *DH*. "Vinesh and some other applications were cleared last night (Monday) after we learned some of the wrestlers struggled to submit their forms. She could have approached us first if she had any trouble. All this was needless."

Vinesh, meanwhile, took to social media to claim that her registration was cleared on Tuesday morning after she couldn't complete it Monday night, after she found the link had been closed.

"My registration to participate in the upcoming ranking tournament was done this morning. I could not complete the registration yesterday as the link was closed. Thank you for the support from everyone. I am looking forward to competing in my first competition after 20 months," tweeted Vinesh.

Sanjay, however, shared a copy of the wrestlers' accepted application with *DH* where the time stamp showed acceptance on Monday night.

2018 Asiad gold medallist Vismaya banned

NEW DELHI, PTI: Asian Games 4x400m relay gold-winning quartermiler VK Vismaya has been handed two-year suspension by the NADA's Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel, nearly two years after she tested positive for a banned substance.

Vismaya, who was a part of the Indian women's quartet that won gold in 4x400m relay in the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games, was provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) in 2024 after her urine sample was found to contain Clomiphene which comes under the hormone and metabolic modulators category and which is prohibited at all times.

Her sample was collected at her home at Perumbavur, near Kochi, in an out-of-competition test on August 15, 2024 and the NADA had informed the athlete about her dope flunk the following month.

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